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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Carter axes Harrier funds

President Carter has eliminated from the 1979-80 Budget he is to unveil in 10 days' time about $200m which the U.S. Marine Corps had sought for continued development of a U.S.-built version of the Harrier jump jet.

The move could cause serious friction between the U.S. and UK. It is one of many aimed at curbing next year's Budget deficit, and has the apparent endorsement of Mr. Harold Brown, Defence Secretary.
Back Page

Iran warning

U.S. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter reiterated Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's warning that Iran's armed forces should not attempt a coup against the civilian Government of Dr. Shahpour Bakhtiar.

Considerable anxiety exists about a coup because of the possible departure of the Shah, who may name a Regency Council to act in his stead, as early as this weekend.
Page 2

China welcome

Ieng Sary, Deputy Premier in the fallen Cambodian Government, arrived in Peking to be greeted by Vice-President Geng Biao (Keng Piao). Prime Minister Pol Pot and President Khieu Samphan are said still to be in Cambodia.
Page 2

Martial law move

Rhodesia's transitional Government clamped martial law on new large areas, bringing almost the entire country under military rule. Rhodesia is stepping up its anti-guerrilla war by calling up white men aged 50 to 59 for 42 days a year.
Page 2

Press hopes rise

Prospects of an end next week to the six-week national strike by provincial journalists were significantly advanced last night when agreement was reached on a no-victimisation formula.
Page 4

Platform found

The Brazilian oil production platform which capsized and sank in a Force 10 storm in the North Sea on Thursday, has been located about 29 miles to the east of Hartlepool. Back Page

Policeman shot

Unidentified gunmen killed one policeman and shot at two others in two separate attacks in Madrid. The two officers on foot patrol returned the fire, hitting one of the gunmen.

Troops alert

Troops were on alert in North-East India's Assam-Nagaland border region, after reports that Naga rebels were planning new raids on Assamese villages. More than 1,000 armed Nagas are reported to be camping near the border.

Briefly . . .

EEC leaders will hold their next summit in Paris on March 12-13, Community officials said.

Mrs. Andrey Daily of London lodged a petition in the Auckland Supreme Court to reclaim her daughter Emma from her estranged husband.

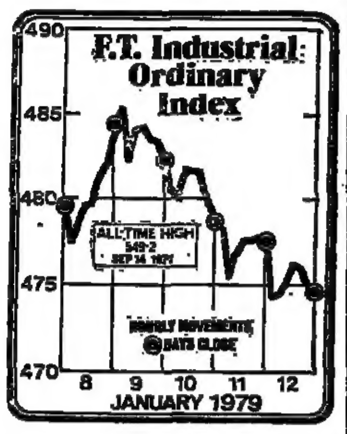
Hijackers demanding the release of a jailed Tunisian labour leader seized a Tunis Air flight from Germany with 75 abroad and forced it to land in Tripoli.

Complications have arisen in a gallstone operation being performed on actor John Wayne, 71.

BUSINESS

Equities down 2.8; Wall St. up 8.23

● EQUITY leaders opened lower but held steady at the slightly lower levels and closed above the worst. The FT 30-share Index, down only 1.2 at 1 pm, was finally 2.8 off at 474.7. This was a net loss on the week of 4.8 but a net rise on the two-week trading account of 3.8.



● GILTS performed relatively well, the announcement of a new short tap stock contributing to a slightly easier trend in shorts in late dealings. An initial flurry in the latter maturities took prices up by around ¼ but little interest was shown later. The Government Securities Index was up 0.09 at 68.09.

● STERLING recovered sharply towards the end of trading to close at $1.9960, a loss of 50 points from Thursday. The trade-weighted index slipped to 63.1 during the morning but finished at 63.2 from 63.4. The dollar's trade-weighted depreciation narrowed slightly from 8.3 per cent to 8.7 per cent.

● GOLD lost $1½ an ounce in $217¾. In New York the January Comex settlement was $218.40 ($217.60).

● WALL STREET closed 8.23 up at 836.28.

● UNDERLYING rate of inflation rose to 8.4 per cent for the year to the middle of December compared with a rise of 8.1 per cent in the year to mid-November. Back Page

● BUILDING SOCIETY receipts in December held up better than expected with £254m net new funds compared with £261m in November. The total, however, was almost £200m down on December 1977. Page 3

● BRITISH AIRWAYS and Air France, in conjunction with Braniff Airways of the U.S., started their Concorde service between Europe, Washington and Dallas/Fort Worth in Texas. Page 3. BA's domestic and European services should be back to normal this morning after the 24-hour pilots' strike.

● GENERAL TELEPHONE and Electronics is thought to be the most likely contender for the rights to market Prestel, the Post Office's viewdata system, in the U.S. An announcement is likely in the next few weeks. Page 3

● RECOVERY in production in the engineering industry last year was most marked in the instrument and electrical sectors, according to the official journal Trade and Industry. Page 3

COMPANIES

● THORN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES expanded pre-tax profits by £8.1m from £46.2m to £54.3m for the six months to September 30, 1978. Results for the full year are not likely to show the same rate of increase. Page 18

● K. O. BOARDMAN INTERNATIONAL suffered a £566,000 first-half turnround to a pre-tax loss of £77,734. Page 18

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES

Assoc. Book Publishers	268	+ 25
Assoc. Sprayers	58	+ 5
Baker Perkins	152	+ 6
Chaddesley	59	+ 3
Davenports Brewery	82	+ 3
Eurotherm	218	+ 10
Fisher (J.)	200	+ 9
Gordon (L).	26	+ 4
Heath (C. E.)	238	+ 5
Home Charm	260	+ 10
Independent Newspapers	215	+ 5
Kelsey Inds.	125	+ 5
Lee Cooper	182	+ 10
Magnet & Southerns	143	+ 5
Morris & Blakey	148	+ 8
Ofrex	124	+ 5
Peachey	94½	+ 2½
Rank Org.	280	+ 6
Stanley (A. G.)	192	+ 4
Tarmac	165	+ 5
U.D.T.	51	+ 6
Vinten Grp.	159	+ 7
Willis Faber	240	+ 7
Titaghur Jute	20	+ 3
Bougainville	150	+ 5
BH South	118	+ 5
CRA	300	+ 8
RTZ	250	+ 9
Yukon Cons.	200	+ 10

FALLS

Assoc. Dairies	192	− 4
Dunlop	62	− 2
E.R.F.	115	− 5
Gerrard & National	191	− 8
Glaxo	501	− 6
Nurdin & Peacock	85	− 4
Plessey	111	− 4
Samuelson Film	134	− 4

Transport union leaders agree to curbs on pickets

BY ELINOR GOODMAN AND ALAN PIKE

Transport union leaders made renewed efforts yesterday to curb secondary picketing in the lorry drivers' dispute and allow the delivery of food and other essential supplies.

Agreement on the movement of priority supplies was reached at a meeting between Mr. Albert Booth, the Employment Secretary, Mr. William Rodgers, the Transport Secretary, and Mr. Harry Urwin, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Ministers were clearly relieved by the assurances but did not try to conceal the widespread disruption to industry which will still be caused by the dispute.

The crucial question now is whether the TGWU, which made the strike official on Thursday, will be able to persuade the strikers to honour the proposed rules of conduct.

There were signs in some parts of the country that secondary picketing was being scaled down after union leaders gave instructions that action should be confined to haulage operators whose terms and conditions were affected by the dispute.

Last night the union sent telegrams to its regional officials setting out the list of priority supplies which they are being told to allow through.

These cover food, including livestock and animal feed-stuffs, pharmaceutical products and fuel for heating schools and other institutions.

The agreement also covers materials needed for gritting roads and any other critical supplies which might be needed in the event of any unforeseen emergency.

It will be Monday before there are clear indications as to whether the proposed new picketing code is being observed throughout the country. Employers said yesterday that there were still some secondary picketing problems in parts of Scotland, Humberside, Merseyside, and the Midlands.

However, with the smaller United Road Transport Union joining the TGWU in making the strike official, thousands more were laid off around the country, and the toll is likely to rise next week.

Foreign shipping companies have cancelled sailings to Britain and at least 100 vessels were in UK ports last night awaiting export cargoes which had not arrived.

With the lorry drivers' strike making secondary picketing a very sensitive political issue, the Prime Minister tried to salvage one small glimmer of hope from what is otherwise regarded as a politically very damaging dispute, by using it as a reason to get discussions going again on the whole question of how to deal with picketing.

Mr. Callaghan asked Mr. Booth to speed up consultations on a Government discussion document on picketing sent to interested parties in October. This suggests, among other things, the possibility of a voluntary code.

Continued on back page

Editorial comment and the union's challenge to the Government Page 16 ● Lex Back Page

Hospitals threatened as nurses plan action

BY PAULINE CLARK AND CHRISTIAN TYLER

ABOUT 150,000 of Britain's 420,000 nurses are planning selective industrial action throughout the country from January 22 in the first official action to be called by a nurses' union for five years.

The action by members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees will be aimed at creating maximum disruption to hospital administration but will avoid as far as possible causing suffering to patients or lowering standards of nursing care.

Negotiators of the four main unions for manual workers in health, local authorities, and the ambulance service yesterday told Ministers that there had to be an acceptable pay offer now—perhaps on account—of more than 5 per cent before their members would accept a longer-term inquiry into their pay.

The warning came at a meeting with Mr. Albert Booth, Employment Secretary; Mr. Peter Shore, Environment Secretary, and Mr. Roland Moyle, Minister for Health.

The unions were told that employers — particularly the local authorities—were worried about the knock-on effect for higher grades of such a pay inquiry.

Nonetheless, prospects for agreement on the inquiry's terms of reference—it could be a single body making three separate reports—look fair. But the problem of the immediate, Phase IV, pay rise remained far from solved at the end of the meeting. The Ministers stressed that cash and pay limits must remain intact for the rest of the public sector pay round.

Yesterday's decision means that nurses could figure prominently in the wider campaign of industrial action over pay being planned by all the major unions in the public services.

The Royal College of Nursing is also to consider recommending limited industrial action by its 120,000 members next month, while the National Union of Public Employees is also expecting many of its 83,500 nurses and midwives to join the co-national campaign for a £60 minimum wage—a 40 per cent increase for the majority.

Mr. Albert Spanswick, general secretary of the confederation, said the Prime Minister and Mr. David Ennals, Secretary for Social Services, had been sent a personal warning of the plans.

The executive had decided there was no other alternative following the Government's persistent refusal to respond to the nurses' demand for special treatment on pay, outstanding since their last pay settlement date under the 10 per cent pay policy last April.

Mr. Spanswick, outlining the details of instructions to be sent to nurses, said: "We are not aiming to paralyse the health service or reduce standards of care to patients. The overall effect will be a loss of efficiency in hospitals and the highlighting of shortage of staff caused by low pay."

Similar action is to be taken by members in the hospital ancillary services and by ambulancemen who will be asked to deal only with emergency work.

RTZ cuts Australia holding

BY PAUL CHEESERIGHT

RIO TINTO-ZINC, the largest of the UK mining houses, is to reduce its holding in Conzinc Riotinto of Australia by more than a third. The Australian company is a 72.6 per cent-owned subsidiary valued in current market terms at A$1.12bn (£570m).

Australian ownership of Conzinc will be raised to 51 per cent over an unspecified period, thus meeting Australian Government policy that there should be at least 50 per cent domestic ownership of mineral projects.

RTZ and Conzinc said yesterday they had reached an understanding with the Australian Government which gives Conzinc what they called "naturalising status." In effect, Conzinc is being granted more freedom in its operations in return for the commitment to admit a greater degree of Australian ownership.

But RTZ stressed that the holding in Conzinc would not necessarily be reduced by a sale of shares. The 23.6 per cent holding in Conzinc which is now in question has a market valuation of A$269.18m (£153.4m).

The transition to greater Australian ownership was a long-term process, the company said. RTZ hoped Conzinc would grow and its shareholding be diluted in the course of expansion in the minerals business and associated industries.

Nevertheless, the statement from the companies set off a flurry of trading in RTZ shares yesterday. They closed at 250p, a rise of 9p.

The companies have been holding detailed talks with the Australian Government about a dilution of the RTZ holding since Mr. John Howard, the Australian Treasurer, announced a more relaxed approach to foreign investment guidelines last June.

Now that the commitment to reduce the RTZ holding to 49 per cent of Conzinc has been made, Conzinc will be able to undertake new mineral projects without Government approval on a case-by-case basis. In addition it will be able to work with wholly-owned Australian companies or other "naturalising" companies.

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FEATURES

For latest Share Index 'phone 01-246 8026

Crisis round-up

STERLING closed under $2 for first time in London since mid-December and at one stage was nearly 2 cents down before Bank of England intervened. Back Page

MOTOR INDUSTRY: Production could come to an almost complete standstill next week. BL has already started lay-offs.

LAY-OFFS: Wide range of manufacturing industry has now issued warnings and companies laying-off workers include Spillers, Dunlop, United Biscuits, Cadbury-Schweppes, Albright and Wilson, ICI and Short Brothers. Output of chemicals and textiles industries already badly hit.

DOCKS: Services to British ports cancelled by foreign shipping companies because storage space is filling up. At least 100 British registered ships in UK ports awaiting export cargoes.

NEWSPAPERS: Several Fleet Street papers are likely to face a shutdown by middle of next week if strike continues to prevent newsprint deliveries.

CHAIRMEN of eight English regional emergency committees meet Mr. William Rodgers, Transport Secretary, tomorrow to discuss transport problems.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Army started to move essential supplies of oil under state of emergency powers declared on Thursday evening.

ANIMAL FEEDS: Movement in only a few areas. In general supplies were still being blocked and pet foods are now being affected.

FOOD: Up to 70 per cent of food manufacturing industry could be shut down by the end of next week. Overall food supply position worsening, according to Ministry of Agriculture, though supplies still adequate with local shortages. Foods in short supply include canned and frozen goods, salt, coffee, biscuits, butter, margarine and oils and fats.

SUPERMARKETS: Panic buying of processed food expected to be at its peak today. Limited rationing of basic foodstuffs at some stores. Sainsbury's reported demand yesterday was 50 per cent up on a normal Friday.

Full details Page 6

Train drivers re-affirm strike plans

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR STAFF

NATIONAL RAIL strikes next week by members of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, now seems certain after the union last night rejected an appeal by Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, to call off the action.

Mr. Ray Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, said after a two-hour meeting with the chairman that the strike was still on.

Sir Peter, he said, had appealed against the action but the union had argued that the productivity working party discussing the union's 10 per cent claim should be recalled.

"If finishing the work of the locomotive working party will end an industrial dispute then why don't we finish it?" Mr. Buckton asked.

Sir Peter said after the meeting that the board would do everything it could to get the working party together again.

The national strikes next Tuesday and Thursday will effectively halt all British Rail main line services from early Monday evening.

Overnight trains will not run from then, leaving rolling stock displaced on Wednesday. However, suburban services are expected to run on the day between the strikes.

The Board is looking for savings of £6.19m as a result of axing 520 drivers' jobs and 860 assistant drivers' jobs. At least part of those savings would be made available for productivity payments.

Mr. Sid Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, which covers most other blue-collar rail staff as well as 3 per cent of engine drivers, said that if paid in full the savings would give increases of 5.2 per cent for railway workers.

Mr. Buckton: "rather a tragedy"

Guards

In further talks next week, he added, the board would be looking for the loss of 5,000 guards' jobs. The final result of the planned manning reductions and changed work patterns could be as high as 15,000 to 20,000 lost jobs.

Payments under any productivity deal will not be made until April 23, the rail union's annual pay settlement date.

Talks on productivity arrangements for members of the NUR again took up most of the meeting yesterday.

Mr. Buckton said it was "rather a tragedy" that ASLEF had been able only to repeat what it had been putting to the board since Monday. The union is claiming increases of 10 per cent, or about £6 a week.

The talks have again highlighted the sometimes bitter rivalry between the 26,000-strong ASLEF and the larger NUR, which has about 180,000 members.

Mr. Weighell took over the NUR negotiations on Thursday, and Mr. Buckton said yesterday that the "change in personnel" had meant ASLEF could make no progress with its claim.

Mr. Weighell said that he doubted if progress could be made before the full position on productivity for all rail grades was known at the end of next week. The NUR was questioning the board's job loss and savings figures.

It was a "sheer impossibility" for the productivity problem to be sorted out in 24 hours. The NUR was trying to work out a lasting solution for all rail staff, not just solve a problem for one group of grades.

The board has offered to take all the unions to a meeting place in the country for as long as it takes to reach a solution on productivity.

But Mr. Cliff Rose, board member for industrial relations, said that there was no possibility of reaching a firm new wages agreement with train drivers before Tuesday.

£ in New York

—	Jan. 12	Previous
Spot	$1.9975-9990	$1.9960-9975
1 month	0.40-0.34 dis	0.43-0.37 dis
3 months	1.16-1.08 dis	1.08-1.00 dis
12 months	3.45-3.25 dis	3.40-3.20 dis

OVERSEAS NEWS

EEC puts new curbs on aid to regions

By Giles Merritt in Brussels

NEW RULES governing the amounts of cash aid and tax relief that EEC member governments can offer companies making investments in development areas have been drawn up by the Brussels Commission.

Because the Commission has the power to vet regional aid on the grounds that it may distort competition, the revised regulations need no ratification by the Council of Ministers and are applicable as of January 1 this year.

In a move aimed at preventing member governments from using regional aid as a device for subsidising ailing industries, the EEC Commission is freezing the level of grants allowed for three years. During that period, it is understood, Commission lawyers will mount a study with the goal of stopping aid that does not create jobs or induce loss-making concerns to rationalise.

The main thrust of the new regulations, though, is that of stimulating job-creation. An alternative aid ceiling has been established for the Community's more industrialised regions that sets governmental aid at 20 per cent of fixed investments, or 3,500 European Units of Account (£2,300) per job created, with an overall ceiling of 25 per cent.

The updated rules also give specially elastic ceilings to three regions: the impoverished Mezzogiorno area of southern Italy, the Irish Republic, and Northern Ireland. Maximum ceilings of 75 per cent of state finance for projects are to be allowed in these areas on the initial investment, but over a five-year period fiscal aid could bring state funding close to 100 per cent.

European Socialists agree aims

By Guy de Jonquieres, Common Market Correspondent in Brussels

THE first conference bringing together Socialist Parties from all nine EEC member countries concluded here yesterday with unanimous approval for a statement setting out common objectives in advance of direct elections to the European Parliament next June.

Although it did not commit the conference to any specific action, the fact that the statement was passed was hailed by delegates as a significant achievement, in view of the differences seperating the various parties.

The British Labour Party delegation, led by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, went along with the statement, or "Appeal to the electorate," as it is entitled, after trying unsuccessfully to amend its only direct reference to the role of the future directly - elected Parliament.

The Labour representatives objected to a passage stating that the Parliament must "initially" develop within the framework of the EEC treaties and that it and other EEC institutions should assume powers currently vested in national Governments and Parliaments only with the assent of the latter.

Mr. Benn, who prefers to speak of the European "Asssembly," insisted that there was no question of the future body ever acquiring powers beyond those currently conferred on it by the treaties.

The statement called for changes in the Common Agricultural Policy to achieve a better balance of production and consumption and more stable prices.

Otherwise, it tended to skirt the more controversial EEC issues.

Schmidt cautious on length of delay in introducing EMS

BY JONATHAN CARR IN BONN

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt of West Germany gave no hint yesterday of an early resolution of the agriculture problem which is holding up introduction of the European Monetary System (EMS).

Answering questions at a Press conference, Herr Schmidt said he felt the matter could be solved before "very many weeks" had passed. But he declined to be drawn on whether that could still mean this month.

It has up to now been hoped that the meeting of Agriculture and Finance Ministers in Brussels scheduled for January 22 and 23 might bring a breakthrough on the disputed issue of Monetary Compensatory Amounts (MCA's) in community farm trade. But the Chancellor's remarks reflect growing caution here on whether this will, in fact, be so.

Herr Schmidt noted he had had a half-hour talk on the farm question with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France at the summit meeting in Guadeloupe last week. France has insisted on a timetable for phasing out MCA's, before giving the go-ahead to the EMS, which was due to start on January 1.

But the Chancellor noted that this was not a bilateral Franco-German problem. Other countries' interests were involved, including those of Britain and the Benelux states, and it could thus be solved only in a community context.

He added there were no differences between himself and Herr Josef Ertl, the West German Agriculture Minister, on the issue. And he stressed that the creation of the EMS must not lead, in his view, to a reduction in German farmers' incomes.

For Bonn this is the heart of the problem of MCA's, which compensate German farmers for the rise in the value of the Deutsche Mark and help their farm exports. For the French, with a relatively weaker currency, the system acts as a tax on farm exports.

Over the last two days the German position has been worked out in detail in talks between key ministers, in particular between Herr Schmidt and Herr Ertl. Broadly, it is that the Germans are ready to see a gradual reduction in MCA's—but only in the context of the community farm price review in Brussels.

The Germans hope to see some increase in community prices which would compensate their farmers for a partial removal of MCA's. But they feel they cannot accept deadlines on the MCA issue, as the French wish, without knowing the outcome of the farm price review (in which the Commission has actually proposed a price freeze to try to overcome the problem of surplus farm production).

Government officials believe the French and West German positions have come closer since Guadeloupe. But the big question remains whether a compromise between Bonn and Paris would be accepted in other capitals—especially London. For the British, MCA's mean a subsidy on food prices and a brake on inflation.

Steel strike 'will not hurt W. German growth'

BY ADRIAN DICKS IN BONN

HERR HELMUT SCHMIDT, the West German Chancellor, said yesterday that he was "overjoyed" at the settlement of the steel industry dispute, and appealed to German public opinion not to exaggerate the significance of the six-week dispute and the issues at stake.

In his first public comment since the settlement was reached last weekend, he admitted that he had been "extremely worried," but insisted that he was more concerned not to injure the tradition of independent bargaining by intervening personally. It had been "utterly irrelevant" for opposition politicians to call on him to take a hand in the peace negotiations.

He said that public opinion needed to understand more clearly that strikes were in no sense disruptive of social order, but a sign that democracy was alive and flourishing in a society.

He underlined that he sees no reason to qualify the Government's optimistic view of economic growth prospects for 1979 because of the steel dispute, and said that opposition calls for further tax cuts were far more likely to damage confidence. There would be no tax cuts beyond those which have already been in effect since January 1 or scheduled to come into force under the package enacted late last year as the German Government's contribution to the Bonn summit agreement of last July.

Turkey aid talks start

BY OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

WEST GERMANY and the U.S. yesterday began discussing what action could best be taken to help Turkey overcome its serious economic difficulties.

Mr. Warren Christopher, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, who arrived from talks with the Turkish Government in Ankara, has had talks at the Bonn Foreign Ministry. He was understood to be passing on Turkish requests for financial aid and discussing how these might, at least partly, be met.

The talks follow agreement between the U.S., West Germany, France and Britain at the Guadeloupe Summit last week that an aid effort should be undertaken. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt made clear at a Press conference yesterday that part of the task lay with the IMF—but that Bonn was urged by her three Guadeloupe partners to co-ordinate additional measures.

The U.S. Government is believed ready to provide Turkey with some $300m in economic and military aid in the fiscal year 1980. But Turkey, suffering internal unrest, serious unemployment and a large balance of payments deficit, is known to want much more.

It is unclear how much Bonn will be ready to contribute in additional help for the Turks.

During his visit here last summer Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, stressed that his country's contribution to NATO exceeded its economic strength. At the time Bonn promised an immediate credit of DM 100m and granted capital aid of DM 130m to help finance industrial projects.

But with a large question mark hanging over Turkey's credit worthiness, West German capital investment there has stagnated and bilateral trade has fallen.

U.S. jobless indicates slowing of economy

By Jurek Martin, U.S. Editor, in Washington

THE U.S. unemployment rate edged up to 5.9 per cent in December, 0.1 per cent higher than in the previous month and a probable indication of some slowing in economic activity at the end of the year.

The final quarter of 1978 turned out to be far more vigorous than had been anticipated. It is likely that real growth in the three-month period exceeded an annual rate of 4 per cent, with the result that the expected rise in unemployment was delayed.

However, in spite of a reasonable retailing Christmas, there have been signs in the latest economic indices that slower growth is beginning to take hold.

Nevertheless, the Carter Administration can—and does—point with some satisfaction to the success it has enjoyed in bringing down unemployment. When Mr. Carter took office, the jobless rate stood at 7.8 per cent, this was cut to 6.6 per cent at the end of 1977 and has now been reduced to 5.9 per cent, having touched 5.7 per cent at one time in the autumn.

This has been achieved in spite of substantial increases in the size of the labour force, which grew again last year by nearly 4m.

Nevertheless, much of organised labour remains dissatisfied with the Administration's economic policies. President Carter received what was doubtless a trenchant analysis yesterday when he conferred for the first time in many months with Mr. George Meany, head of the AFL-CIO, the major trades union association.

● The political corruption conviction of former Maryland Governor, Mr. Marvin Mandel, has been overturned by an Appeals Court, giving Mr. Mandel the right to reassume his office for the four remaining days of his term and to claim backpay and pension rights.

The Appeals Court decision setting aside the conviction of Mr. Mandel and five co-defendants on the grounds that the trial judge's instructions to the jury may have been misleading, poses the problem for Government prosecutors of whether to attempt a third trial of Mr. Mandel.

Solomon sees SDR growth at expense of $

By David Freud

THE U.S. is prepared to see a rundown in the role of the dollar as a reserve currency, Mr. Anthony Solomon, Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the U.S. Treasury, said in London yesterday.

He told a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs that increased use of Special Drawing Rights—issued through the International Monetary Fund—was the most likely instrument to fill the gap.

"The U.S. has no interest in artificially perpetuating a particular international role for the dollar," he said.

Mr. Solomon discussed the possibility of other national currencies playing an increasing role, such as the Japanese yen and West German mark. He also referred to the new European Monetary System.

Stressing the usefulness of SDRs particularly, he said: "We in the U.S. have great hope for the progress of the SDR. As experience with the asset accumulates, as allocations continue over a period of time and as the useability of the instrument increases we believe it will fulfill the promise which its creators foresaw and play an increasingly more valuable role."

Japan aid target ahead of schedule

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR, IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S TARGET of doubling the dollar value of its official aid over three years from the end of 1977 is likely to be achieved by the end of this year—one year ahead of schedule.

This is being forecast by officials concerned with the aid programme on the basis of aid appropriations included in the recently approved budget for fiscal 1979.

The budget allocates about Y720bn (£1.81bn) for official development assistance (ODA), roughly 13.4 per cent more than the 1978 allocation. Assuming that at least 75 per cent of this amount is disbursed during the year, Japan's overseas aid in fiscal year 1979 (running from April 1 to March 31) should amount to some $2.76bn plus whatever still remains to be disbursed from the 1978 aid appropriation.

Japan's official overseas aid in 1977 was $1.42bn—hence the official confidence that aid is likely to be doubled well ahead of schedule.

A major factor in Japan's success in stepping up aid in dollar terms has been the appreciation of the yen. This has produced a much faster increase in the value of dollar-denominated aid disbursements than would have been possible if the exchange rate had remained constant.

The rate used to compute the value of Japan's aid in 1978 (set at the beginning of the fiscal year by the Ministry of Finance) was $1=Y234, whereas the rate on which the dollar value of 1979 disbursements will be calculated is $1=Y195.

Quite apart from the boost provided by yen appreciation, however, there is evidence that Japan has been making genuine efforts to step up the value of its overseas aid. The aid programme was exempted by a special Cabinet decision last summer from the Finance Ministry rule of thumb which limits the increase in budgetary appropriations of individual ministries to 12-13 per cent a year. This made it possible for some sections of the oda budget for 1979 to rise by substantially more than 12 per cent.

Grant aid dispensed by the Foreign Ministry in the 1979 fiscal year has been set at Y65bn, a 67 per cent increase over the 1978 figure of Y39bn. The Ministry originally asked for a grant appropriation of Y74.5bn but was told by the Ministry of Finance that it could have no more than Y47bn. An additional Y18bn worth of funds were allocated for grant aid during a final week of bargaining between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance.

Apart from the Y65bn grant appropriation, the aid budget includes some Y50bn for technical assistance (up 17 per cent on the 1978 level) and about Y370bn worth of funds for soft loans to be administered by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. The rapid increase in grant aid means that there should be some improvement in the "quality" of Japan's aid in 1979 as well as in its quantity.

Japan's determination to improve its performance as an aid donor reflects an awareness that the country's trade and aid policies could be criticised both at the forthcoming UNCTAD V meeting (in Manila in May) and at the Tokyo summit of advanced countries (in June). Japan attaches particular importance to the Tokyo summit as the first occasion on which a Japanese Prime Minister will be playing host to the leaders of other advanced industrial nations.

The weak point of Japan's performance as an aid donor is that the amount of official aid is still low in relation to gross national product—about 0.21 per cent in terms of actual disbursements last year compared with the average of 0.31 per cent for all OECD member countries. The Government's next major aid target probably will be to match the OECD disbursement average but this could take several years to achieve.

Peaceful protests in Iran

By Anthony McDermott in Tehran

MAINLY PEACEFUL demonstrations took place in several parts of Tehran yesterday in protest against the Shah and the newly-appointed Government of Dr. Shabpour Bakhtiar.

The most impressive feature of the procession I witnessed was the discipline. The 10,000 marchers were divided into groups of about 500, each carrying banners and the inevitable picture of the Ayatollah Khomeiny, the religious leader, now in exile in Paris. Alongside ran marshalls with white armbands and linked arms to keep the demonstrators together. Ahead, other marshalls directed the traffic.

Sections of the crowd rhythmically echoed each other's chants, the pitch rising shrilly as a group of women dressed in black or pale grey chadors (veil) passed by. The chanting was interspersed with the now familiar slogans of "death to the Shah" and "Khomeiny is our leader."

There was no interference from the army. Indeed, when the demonstrators passed in front of an army lorry ringed by silent soldiers the marshals had formed their own protective line in front of the military to prevent incidents.

Virtually all shops were closed and children sold coloured balloons. One man pushed forward and thrust out a coloured photograph of two badly beaten up men saying, "The Shah did that."

According to one participant the march was organised not by religious leaders, but by the local citizenry. As such, it indicates the depth of hostility felt by ordinary people against the Shah.

Dr. Bakhtiar's Government faces two immediate tests: the re-opening of the universities today, with the likelihood of accompanying disturbances, and the resumption on Sunday of the Majlis debate on approving Dr. Bakhtiar's Government.

Assuming that the Shah will not leave until approval of the Government has been obtained, his departure may not be until the middle of next week.

Our Foreign Staff adds: General Fereidoun Jam, the former Iranian army commander, who resigned from Dr. Bakhtiar's Cabinet earlier in the week, may return to London within the next few days it is believed in Madrid where Gen. Jam was once the Iranian ambassador. His surprise resignation as War Minister came because he was unhappy about plans for the army's reorganisation.

Iraqi–French trade hope

AN INCREASE in French trade with Iraq, its second largest oil supplier, was discussed here this week during a visit by Mr. Mohieddin Ma'rouf, the Iraqi Vice-Premier.

Extra Iraqi oil supplies to France and the sale of a French nuclear reactor and arms were expected to be pursued in the next few months by the French Foreign Trade Minister, M. Jean-Francois Deniau, and the Prime Minister, M. Raymond Barre, both due to visit Baghdad.

The Iraqi Vice-Premier held talks with M. Barre and with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing in an effort to mend the poor state of relations between the two countries since last July's shootout at the Iraqi Embassy in Paris.

M. Ma'rouf visited French nuclear manufacturing facilities, and the French are hoping to sell a 600 megawatt reactor following delivery of an experimental plant and the signing of a nuclear co-operation pact.

● A protest strike called throughout the Lorraine region of eastern France caused widespread stoppages in the steel industry, mines, transport and schools.

The strike demonstrated the Left-wing unions' increasing ability to rally popular support in the region after the Government's announcement of 20,000 redundancies in French steelmills, mostly in Lorraine.

Rhodesia extends military call-up to older whites

BY TONY HAWKINS IN SALISBURY

RHODESIA YESTERDAY again extended its military call-up announcing that all white men aged between 50 and 59 are to serve for 42 days a year during 1979. Citing the "increased threat" of urban terrorism and the need for increased vigilance in the months leading to the general election of April 20, the Transitional Government said men in their fifties would be called up to undertake protective duties particularly in urban areas.

"The men affected will be employed mainly on short duration static guard duties in urban areas, and would serve a maximum of 42 days in 1979, either for part time, such as night and weekend duties, or for longer periods," the official statement said.

The Government said the first men to be called up would be those who previously had a military commitment but who have turned 50 which was previously the ceiling age for conscription. The Government is appealing to everyone who has no military commitment to volunteer their services to the police reserve pointing out that many people over the age of 50 are already fulfilling police reservist functions.

In addition, the statement says deferment and exemption procedures are to be tightened up and ways and means of making better use of men under exemption from call-up are being examined.

The call-up of older men comes as a surprise because while the deterioration of the security situation is widely acknowledged it had been thought that the Government would extend the call-up period for younger men.

Ieng Sary flees to China

PEKING — Ieng Sary, Deputy Premier in the toppled Cambodian Government of Pol Pot, yesterday drove into China, which had backed the fallen regime.

Some diplomatic observers expected that he would go to Peking for consultations with Chinese officials.

He drove by car across the border from Hongkong, where he had flown from Bangkok the previous day after crossing into Thailand following the fall of Phnom Penh to Vietnamese-backed insurgents.

Diplomatic sources said he had not been accompanied by Khieu Samphan, the Cambodian President, on his arrival in the British Colony.

There was no indication of the whereabouts of Samphan, although it was believed he might be in Thailand, or of Pol Pot himself.

In Cambodia, Vietnamese forces were reported to be hammering the last three major areas of resistance, while almost 400 Cambodians — suspected to be defected soldiers or officials — fled into Thailand.

Thai border authorities feared an influx of refugees across their 800 km border as Vietnamese armour and infantry completed a three-week dash across Cambodia by mopping up remnants of the fallen Government.

At the United Nations, in a severe diplomatic defeat for the Soviet Union, the Security Council upheld the legitimacy of the Pol Pot Government, despite the claim by anti-Government insurgents to control the country.

Presenting its first resolution to the Security Council, China, which supports the Pol Pot Government, called on the 15-nation body to condemn strongly Vietnam's "armed invasion and aggression" against its Communist neighbour.

Overriding Soviet and Czechoslovak objections, the council allowed Prince Norodom Sihanouk, former ruler of Cambodia, to lead the Pol Pot regime's cause as Cambodia's legally accredited representative.

Agencies.

Relaxation of yen controls

By Our Far East Correspondent

THE BANK of Japan took a first step yesterday towards dismantling the emergency controls on short-term foreign exchange movements introduced during the past 14 months. It announced a reduction from 100 per cent to 50 per cent in the compulsory interest-free reserve requirements on free yen deposits.

Free yen are those held by non-residents, which can be converted into other currencies without restriction. In November 1977, the Bank of Japan ruled that foreign exchange banks would have to deposit with it amounts corresponding to 50 per cent of any increase in the balances of their free yen. The referment was raised to 100 per cent last March, but has now been restored to the original level.

A ban on the purchase of short-term bonds (with maturity periods of less than five years and one month), which was also introduced in March, 1978, remains in force but could be withdrawn or modified at some time in the future.

The Bank of Japan has been considering a partial modification of the restraint on short-term credit proposals since late last year. It is believed that conditions in the Tokyo foreign exchange market are now fundamentally more stable than during the 12 months or so up to the end of October, when the yen rate was appreciating rapidly.

The main cause of stability is seen as the series of dollar-protection measures introduced by the U.S. early in November. These measures involved the activation of the U.S. Federal reserve's swap arrangements with the Bank of Japan.

The dollar has recovered markedly against the yen since the measures were introduced.

Switzerland expects low growth

By John Wicks in Zurich

SWISS GROWTH will at the most be very small in real terms this year. This is the forecast in the annual study by the country's Working Party on the Economic Situation, prepared on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and the National Bank. Even an optimistic view of 1979 export development will mean that the picture for the year is not very bright, the study states.

The Working Party says an optimistic estimate of export growth for the current year would be 4 per cent in real terms, or the same rate as in 1978. The study considers realistic the expectation that over the next few years real export growth rate will be about half that registered for the record years 1976 and 1977; in these two years exports of goods and services rose in real terms by 10.2 and 10 per cent, respectively. The working party's "pessimistic" estimate would see no real growth at all in 1979 exports over the previous year.

The report expects that the sharp decline in the import-price index will soon begin to have its effect on consumer prices and a new rise in imports is forecast.

Anticipating an increase in unemployment, the working party expects a GDP rise this year of considerably below 1 per cent or, in the case of stagnating export activity, an actual decline. A continuation of export growth would be necessary to keep up high employment rates so long as no new stimulus comes from domestic demand, the report points out, there having been no marked recovery in domestic consumption since the 1974/76 crisis. In the event of zero growth in the export sector, it is thought likely that the policy of deflation will have to be scrapped and measures introduced to enliven domestic demand.

Andreotti bid to avert national strike

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

SIG. GIULIO ADREOTTI, the Italian Prime Minister whose minority Christian Democrat Government has now approved its three-year economic recovery programme, held crucial talks with trade union leaders yesterday in an attempt to avert their threat of a national strike later this month.

After a Cabinet meeting over the last two days, the Government decided to hold back publication of its economic plan until next week, when it will be presented in Parliament. This reflects the cautious attitude Sig. Andreotti is adopting in view of the current tensions among the various political parties, including the Communists, supporting his administration.

The long-awaited plan for 1979-81 is generally regarded as a make-or-break test for the Government. In this respect, union reaction is likely to be decisive. Union rejection of the programme and the staging of a national strike would seriously jeopardise the Government's prospects.

Sig. Andreotti's preliminary talks yesterday with the unions centred mainly on the acute problems of Italy's depressed south. The unions are demanding firm commitments for priority investments in the Mezzogiorno to tackle the south's chronic unemployment.

Although the Government's economic plan is understood to include a series of investments to create around 500,000 new jobs during the next three years, particularly in the south, union representatives yesterday claimed they had so far not been given specific details.

In return for increasing annual growth next year to between 4 and 4.5 per cent, the Government is seeking union backing for an incomes policy to prevent wages increasing during the next three years over the current annual inflation rate of about 12 per cent.

In a token of its goodwill to increase investments in the south, the Cabinet approved measures to encourage such investments.

These included tax exemption on company profits to be reinvested in the south, and the transfer to the State—for a period of ten years—of all social welfare charges currently paid by companies to their labour force employed in the south. Social welfare charges are widely regarded as one of the major causes for the sharp increase in Italian labour costs in recent years.

Although trade union leaders have claimed they were willing to moderate wage claims in the course of the current renewal of a large number of three-year national labour contracts involving some 10m workers in both the private and public sector, the wage platforms so far put forward by the unions appear to exceed the Government ceiling.

Confindustria, the Italian national employers' association, claims the union wage demands, particularly that of the key Engineering and Metalworkers Labour Federation, are well above current inflation rates. At the same time, Sig. Guido Carli, the Confindustria chairman and former governor of the Bank of Italy, outlined the difficulties for the private sector under unchanged circumstances to boost investments.

Over the last five years, according to Sig. Carli, the average return from invested capital declined from 10.6 per cent to 6.5 per cent against an average increase in the cost of financing investments from 7.8 per cent to 16.5 per cent. In the same five-year period, the price of raw material increased by an annual average of 35.9 per cent and labour costs by 19.3 per cent.

Against the present background of political and social tensions over the Government's economic recovery plan and over the current fragile coalition formula there has been a revival of political violence in Italy. After the major disorders in the capital during the last two days, further incidents were reported yesterday in Rome and in other cities.

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UK NEWS

December funds aid home loan success

By Michael Cassell, Building Building Correspondent

BUILDING SOCIETIES ended last year on a much brighter note than expected, with net receipts holding up in spite of the high level of Christmas consumer spending.

The societies were fearing one of the worst set of monthly receipts for two years, but an investment upsurge in the last few days of December left them with net new funds of £254m, against £261m in November.

The total, however, was almost £200m down on the same month a year earlier and the societies face the problem of attracting sufficient funds to maintain the high levels of lending.

The December figures complete last year's picture, which proved to be the most successful period on record for mortgage loans.

Early estimates put total lending at about £8.7bn, against £6.8bn in 1977, with loans totalling 800,000 compared with 737,000 in the preceding year.

Both mortgage lending and new commitments fell substantially in December, largely due to seasonal factors.

The societies advanced £651m to home buyers, against £764m in November, while mortgage promises totalled a further £648m, compared with £720m in the previous month.

Of the £648m, the societies committed £49m for non-house purchase purposes, mainly improvement work.

Earlier last year the societies were each month committing themselves to advance over £100m on so-called peripheral lending. But this has steadily declined as funds have become more scarce and Government limits on lending for house purchase have been relaxed.

The societies now confront an uncertain few months. The short term outlook for funds is not very encouraging and January is not expected to show much, if any, improvement over last month.

Home and car insurers hit by bad winter

BY ERIC SHORT

THIS WINTER'S severe weather, the worst since 1963, is having a significant impact on UK insurance companies.

General Accident, the biggest motor insurer in the UK and one of the leading household insurers, said yesterday that it had been inundated by a "mass of claims" from motorists, householders and owners of business premises.

The number of claims received this year was already well above normal seasonal averages, in some places by 100 per cent.

General Accident made a survey of the number and type of claims being submitted to some of its UK branches, ranging from Aberdeen to Plymouth. Each branch reported the same story. The bad road conditions and freezing temperatures, linked to the thaw, resulted in claims for motor accidents, flooding, burst pipes and split radiators.

However, the company was emphatic that much of the discomfort and inconvenience to motorists and home owners could have been avoided if attention had been paid to the conditions. Many home claims resulted from a failure to drain boilers and pipes or to provide adequate heating while the house was unoccupied.

In some large cities many people in tenements, flats and council properties were particularly hard hit, because in some buildings it was difficult to turn off the water at the mains. In other cases flooding in top flats damaged whole buildings.

The company also condemned motorists for driving without regard to weather conditions. They were keeping too close, over-accelerating and cornering too quickly. Councils were also condemned in many areas for aggravating the situation by inadequate snow clearance and gritting arrangements.

The British Insurance Association confirmed that General Accident's experience on household claims was general throughout the insurance industry, however it believed that the high number of accidents on the road was offset by fewer drivers using their cars during the bad weather.

The association also said that it was still too early to provide an estimate of the total cost of the bad weather to insurance companies.

Finance and the Family Page 8

Recent storm damage at Torcross, Devon

Electrical engineering shows 6.7% recovery in production

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RECOVERY IN production in the engineering industry last year was most marked in the instrument and electrical sectors, according to the official journal Trade and Industry.

Output of the electrical engineering industry in the third quarter of last year was 6.7 per cent higher than the same quarter in 1977, and 2 per cent above the second quarter of last year.

Computers showed the strongest growth between the second and third quarters, with a 16 per cent rise in production, and 21.4 per cent above the third quarter index in 1977.

But telecommunications remains at a depressed level, with production falling by 6 per cent between the second and third quarters of last year.

The scientific and industrial instruments industry was largely responsible for the 1 per cent rise in production in the instrument engineering sector between the second and third quarters, consolidating a particularly strong rise in this sector in the second quarter of last year.

The latest figures show that production in the combined engineering sector is getting back to the peak levels of 1974, although mechanical engineering is still sluggish when viewed in this longer term perspective.

Agricultural machinery and textile machinery recorded falls of 14 per cent and 10 per cent respectively in the third quarter of last year, but food processing and packaging machinery, and other non-electrical machinery, recorded rises of 6 and 8 per cent, respectively.

The returns for the industrial plant and fabricated steelwork category in the third quarter were not sufficiently firm to allow publication, but the indications are that this industry saw a large rise in the third quarter.

High prices for Old Masters

CHRISTIES first auction of the year in New York produced some high prices for Old Master paintings. The sale totalled £1,362,542, wiht a reasonable 17 per cent unsold.

Top price was the £147,631 paid by Mitchell, the London dealer, for a picture of flowers in a vase by Balthasar van der Ast. The price was double the pre-sale forecast and a record at auction for the artist.

Other good prices were the £81,052, another record, paid by Newhouse of New York for a still life of sweetmeats by Juan van der Hamen y Leon; £52,105 Norwegian Landscape by Jacob van Ruisdael, £49,210 from the Brod Gallery of London for a Capriccio of ancient and modern Roman buildings attributed to Victor Jean Nicolle and the same sum for an allegory of the elements by Jan Brueghel the elder and Hendrick van Balen.

SALEROOM

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

U.S. Concorde link will give faster service to Europe

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS and Air France, in conjunction with Braniff Airways of the U.S., yesterday started their Concorde service between Washington and Dallas/Fort Worth in Texas.

Concordes will fly supersonically from London and Paris to Washington. Then, on six days a week, Concorde will be taken over by Braniff and flown subsonically between Washington and Dallas/Fort Worth.

British Airways and Air France are hoping for much more from the new service. They believe that other U.S. airlines will be watching the agreement with Braniff closely, and may well also decide this year to introduce similar services with Concorde to other U.S. cities.

Concorde is prevented by law from flying supersonically over U.S. territory. But even subsonically it is faster than the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet, so that any subsonic services by Concorde from inland cities to New York and Washington will provide faster links to Europe.

Braniff has suggested that it may lease a Concorde and fly it supersonically on other parts of its network, such as to Santiago and Lima in South America, via Panama City.

In addition to the Braniff agreement, British Airways is now planning with Singapore Airlines for the resumption of services to Singapore, via Bahrain, on January 24, with flights three times a week each way.

Other airlines in South-East Asia will be studying this operation.

The economic performance of the Concorde is expected to be revolutionised by the technical modifications recently made to the aircraft, including the new air intake for the engines which improves performance and saves up to 1,000 Kg of fuel on a long flight.

This will enable Concorde either to fly further with the same payload, or to carry more passengers on particularly long sectors, such as Singapore-Bahrain.

British Airways and British Aerospace estimate that out of Singapore to Bahrain Concorde will now be able to carry its full payload of 100 passengers under all but the most severe weather conditions at all times of the year.

Meeting to examine airline's problems

BY OUR AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to hold a two-day "human relations" conference with senior trades unionists and staff on Thursday and Friday, to examine the airline's recurrent industrial relations problems.

The meeting will not deal with negotiations on immediate issues, such as pay and conditions of service, but with identifying and correcting what the management believes to be the underlying problems that cause disputes which are threatening the airline's prosperity.

Mr. Ross Stainton, deputy chairman and chief executive, said recently that while the airline had carried about 15m passengers last year, 2m more than in 1977, "numerous black-spots continue to plague us.

"Too many of them directly affect our customers. Too many of them are brought about by industrial action that ignores the whole machinery of consultation in British Airways in reckless pursuit of a short-term aim.

"Most of them have only the effect of making our customers miserable."

Sir Frank McFadzean, chairman, has also hit out at these recurrent industrial disputes, which in recent years have run to 80 or more in any 12-month period.

The result has been dirty aircraft, late departures (which means late arrivals at the destination), no bar service on board, and other difficulties.

Prestel U.S. sale decision soon

BY JOHN LLOYD

A DECISION is expected shortly by a big U.S. communications company on the purchase of rights to market Prestel, the Post Office's viewdata system.

The most likely contender for the system is thought to be General Telephone and Electronics, the largest telecommunications company after American Telephone and Telegraph.

The company said last night that it had several discussions with Insac, which is marketing Prestel in the U.S.

Interested

General Telephone executives had been "pretty impressed" with the system, but no final decision had been taken. An announcement is likely in the next two or three weeks, it added.

Other U.S. companies, including RCA, International Telephone and Telegraph and Texas Instruments, are also reported to be interested in Prestel.

Some companies are testing a viewdata system of their own, although none has made a formal announcement.

General Telephone said that it had done some research, but it was unlikely that it would procede further with its own system.

Plea to cut safety law breaches

MAGISTRATES DEALING with breaches of health and safety laws, as well as British industry, must "wake up and toughen up" over industrial accidents, Mr. John Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

"I really have no sympathy for those whose negligence or neglect add to the industrial accident toll."

Mr. Grant was presenting awards to employees at the Esso oil refinery at Milford Haven in a ceremony to mark ten years without an accident involving loss of working time.

UK NEWS

Market's wine lake undrinkable says Ministry

By John Hunt, Parliamentary Correspondent

MUCH OF the wine in the EEC "wine lake" is completely undrinkable, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

In evidence to the House of Lord's select committee on the EEC, Ministry officials say that it is fit only for distillation. They add: "The alcoholic strength is too low."

However, the European Commission claims that some of its proposals for new planting and land classification would improve the quality of table wine and increase sales.

To reduce the "wine lake" the Commission is introducing measures to increase consumption, curb production, and strengthen the support mechanism to wine-growers.

The select committee, in its report published yesterday, is extremely dubious about some of the suggestions.

It says that the three states seeking entry to the Community, Greece, Portugal and Spain, already supply two-thirds of EEC wine imports.

Enlarging the Community was unlikely to ease the imbalance between supply and demand, and, in fact, the situation could well deteriorate."

...The Committee believes that Market support should be provided only for marketable wine. It says the Commission's proposal that sales of wine below a fixed minimum price should be forbidden. This would further limit consumer choice.

The committee doubts whether reducing excise duty in the UK would have a significant impact on the "wine lake."

It is opposed to the Commission's new land classification for vineyards, believing this would be a "ill-judged and arbitrary restriction" on location of production.

Finally, the report opposes giving help to the Charente region of France, facing problems following the reduction in the use of the local wine for making cognac.

This was "an unfortunate investment decision"

MPs demand tougher fines on pollution risk tankers

BY IAN HARGREAVES, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

THE UK should widen its territorial waters limit from three to 12 miles and toughen penalties against ships which create a *pollution risk*, according to a committee of MPs.

Ships over 1,600 gross registered tons should also be forced to carry two independently operating radar sets and the Government should sanction as soon as possible expenditure of around £50m on new hydrographic vessels to update charts of the sea around Britain, say the MPs.

These are among the main recommendations of a report on the prevention of *collisions and* strandings of ships carrying dangerous substances. It was published yesterday by the trade and industry sub-committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee.

The report is based on an investigation prompted by the wrecking of the Amoco Cadiz supertanker off the Brittany coast last May. Its findings are also relevant to the subsequent Christos Bitas and Eleni V *incidents, but not to the recent* explosion of the tanker Betelgeuse, near Bantry Bay.

Two of the report's recommendations are designed specifically to prevent a recurrence of the circumstances which caused the Amoco Cadiz to go aground after a failure in her *steering gear.*

In future ships should be required to have separate brake fluid reservoirs on hydraulic steering systems, and a mechanism to fix the rudder when steering control is lost.

Navigation

The report says the most important issue to arise from the inquiry is any State's limitations in controlling pollution *hazards outside its own territorial waters*, where its laws do not apply.

The importance of freedom of navigation in international waters was acknowledged. But the MPs urge the Government to press for greater coastal State rights in future international negotiations, and to extend UK territorial waters to 12 miles, in line with the European Commission's view.

They also wanted the UK to *take a lead* in pressing for international agreement to give States much wider powers to inspect, detain and, if necessary, prosecute sub-standard ships or sub-standard crews which appeared in their ports.

The maximum penalty of £1,000 for ships' masters dis*obeying navigational rules* proposed in the current Merchant Shipping Bill was far too low. Dr. Edmund Marshall, chairman of the committee, suggested that £100,000 would be a more realistic figure.

The MPs also aimed to influence this Bill, whose committee stage is expected shortly, on two other counts. They wanted the power to increase maximum fines to be by simple Statutory Instrument subject to affirmative resolution by both Houses, and a re-think on the plan to reduce the exposure of seamen to criminal prosecution for being drunk on duty.

There were two areas where the committee believed substantial Government spending was needed to prevent marine pollution.

The first was to increase the national hydrographic fleet to update within a reasonable period Admiralty charts of British waters. According to the Ministry of Defence, this would involve a £50m capital cost and additional running costs of £10.5m a year.

The report was critical of the indecision on this matter in the last four years. It said the Department of Trade had to accept responsibility, and be given resources from the contingency fund if necessary.

Other expense, not quantified in the report, would be incurred in meeting the committee's recommendation that the Government provide more bridge training simulators. These cost about £500,000 each.

The committee said that 75 per cent of shipping accidents were caused by human error and urged an all-round improvement in training standards, and more attention in particular to the training of ratings towards officer qualifications.

The MPs favoured cautious changes of traffic separation schemes, which have been modified since the Amoco Cadiz incident. They also thought that bigger tankers should be excluded from "vulnerable areas" in some cases.

Second report from the expenditure committee: Measures to prevent collisions and strandings of noxious cargo carriers in waters around the UK. Commons Paper 105-1. SO £1.75.

Company faces sanctions trial

A YORKSHIRE engineering company was sent for trial by Huddersfield magistrates yesterday on six charges of breaking Rhodesian trade sanctions.

Hopkinsons, which designs and manufactures valves and equipment for the energy supply industry, was committed for trial at Leeds Crown Court.

Also sent for trial were Mr. Peter King Walker, 51, Hopkinsons' former sales director; the company's agents, the Birmingham office of Stewarts and Lloyds of South Africa, and Mr. Eric Wilfred Bibby, 64, Stewarts and Lloyds' office manager.

Hopkinsons faced five charges of agreeing to supply power station spares to Stewarts and Lloyds, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe they were for business purposes in Rhodesia.

With Walker, Stewarts and Lloyds, and Bibby the company is also accused of committing an act calculated to promote the supply of spares for use at the Umniati power station in Rhodesia. All the offences are alleged to have been committed between 1968, when the Rhodesian sanctions order came into force, and 1974. Mr. Walker and Mr. Bibby were allowed bail.

Hoare Govett team to move

By James Bartholomew

THE ENTIRE four-man investment trust team at *Hoare* Govett, the stockbroking company, is to move to another stockbroker, de Zoete and Bevan.

"I think they need a new challenge," Mr. James Titcomb, senior partner of de Zoete and Bevan, said. The reason for the change was not *money, he* added.

Watch 0.08 ins thick

BY JOHN LLOYD

LONGINES, one of the biggest companies in the Swiss watch industry, yesterday launched an *electronic* wrist watch with an overall thickness of 1.98mm (0.08 inches), thinner than the average matchstick.

The company claims that it is the first quartz watch to "break the 2mm barrier." It was launched *simultaneously in* Switzerland and the UK, and will be on sale shortly, priced around £3,500.

LABOUR

Platform builders to discuss strike progress on Tuesday

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

SHOP STEWARDS leading the unofficial strike by 2,500 men which has halted construction on 11 North Sea oil platforms have called a mass meeting in Glasgow on Tuesday to consider the next move.

The dispute, which began a week ago, has spread to seven fields, Ninian, Brent, Piper, Heather, Beryl, Cormorant and Dunlin, and virtually stopped all work connecting new electrical and mechanical equipment.

Since it involves workers employed by construction companies rather than oil company staffs, output of crude oil from platforms already in production has not been affected and is unlikely to be.

Offshore schedules are *notoriously unreliable because* of the weather and other factors, so the strike would have to continue for some weeks before it began to delay new platforms being brought on stream. Most have so far lost only three or four days' work.

There were relatively few *men offshore* because of the Christmas and New Year holidays ;but more than 1,000 have had to be taken off of platforms. Where this would have left them *unmanned oil* companies have put their own safety crews on board.

The dispute centres over a grievance about the amount of shore leave granted to construction workers. Until now the men have worked two weeks offshore for each week of leave.

Last month, the Oil and Chemical Plant Constructors' Association which represents the companies, offered an improvement to two weeks *shore leave for* every three weeks worked on platforms.

But the men are demanding equal time on-shore and offshore to bring them into line with oil company *personnel.*

NALGO's Welsh campaign threatened

By Robin Reeves, Welsh Correspondent

A DECISION by the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) to spend £5,000 on campaigning for a "No" vote in the Welsh devolution referendum may be the subject of a High Court injunction.

A group of NALGO members in North Wales in favour of the Welsh Assembly have instituted proceedings through a solicitor and barrister to fight the union's action. Unlike other unions, NALGO does not have a fund for financing political activities.

The union's move has already been described by the Wales *for the Assembly Campaign* as "protection money to maintain the vested interests of high-level bureaucrats."

NALGO's opposition to the Assembly is said to stem from the Government's decision to make the Assembly secretariat a Civil Service department rather than part of the Welsh local government structure.

Journalists' strike looks nearer settlement

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

PROSPECTS OF an end to the national strike by provincial journalists were significantly advanced last night when agreement was reached on a no-victimisation formula.

This means that the National *Union of Journalists* will give the go ahead this weekend for chapel (office branch) meetings involving its 9,000 members to consider the employers latest 14.5 per cent pay offer.

The union which has demanded a £20 rise will call a delegate conference of chapel *leaders in London on Wednesday*

Earlier this week, the NUJ decided against putting the offer to its members because it said the Newspaper Society had not given a sufficiently firm undertaking that strikers would not be sacked.

The *society has* already promised to recommend strongly to members that strikers should not be dismissed. But it is believed to have faced difficulties in offering a firm guarantee because a few of its members employ journalists on the understand*ing that they will be sacked* if they join a strike.

Mirrlees axes 150 jobs

MIRRLEES BLACKSTONE, the engineering company, has made 150 office and factory staff redundant.

The company, of Stamford, Lincs., is a subsidiary of the Hawker Siddeley group. It has blamed the redundancies on a world recession in the diesel engine market.

The company is the biggest employer in the area with a labour force of 1,300.

EDUCATIONAL

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 003655 of 1978

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, Chancery Division. In the Matter of STYLO BARRATT SHOES LIMITED and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 5th January 1979 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for (a) the sanctioning of a Scheme of Arrangement and (b) the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £2,000,000 to £1,855,516 by cancelling shares in accordance with the terms of the said Scheme of Arrangement. The amount by which the capital of the said Company is proposed to be reduced is to be applied in paying up in full shares of the said Company to a like amount.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Vinelott at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on the 22nd day of January 1979. Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 11th day of January, 1979.

BOOTH & CO.,
Phoenix House,
South Parade,
Leeds LS1 1HQ.
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

COMPANY NOTICE

CREDIT NATIONAL —EMPRUNT OBLIGATAIRE

Dollar U.S. 75,000,000 1978/1988

A Taux d'Interet Variable

The rate of interest applicable for the six months period beginning on 11th January, 1979 and set by the reference agent is 12⅞% annually

APPOINTMENTS

Changes at Ford Motor U.S. and Europe

Mr. H. A. Poling, chairman of Ford of Europe Incorporated, has been elected an executive vice president of FORD MOTOR COMPANY in the U.S. and will be nominated for election to the main Board at the annual meeting in May. Mr. Poling will become executive vice president, corporate staffs of Ford Motor U.S. on April 2, 1979, on the retirement of Mr. Robert J. Hampson. Mr. Robert A. Lutz, *president of Ford of Europe*, will succeed Mr. Poling as chairman of Ford of Europe. Mr. Edward J. Blanch, at present vice president, finance and chief financial *adviser, Ford Motor U.S.*, will replace Mr. Lutz as president of Ford of Europe. Mr. Walter Hayes will continue as vice chairman, Ford of Europe.

★

Mr. Charles H. Gerrard, extrusion division manager, and Mr. Anthony Tight, financial controller, have been appointed directors of FRANCIS SHAW AND CO. Mr. Charles Corcoran has retired as a director and has become a part-time consultant to the company.

★

Mr. J. S. Murray is to retire as managing director of BOULTON AND PAUL at the end of June and will be succeeded by Mr. R. L. Chenhall, the present deputy managing director.

★

Mr. Frank Lampl, chief execu*tive of Bovis International Divi*sion, has been appointed a director of BOVIS LIMITED.

★

Mr. Denis Wilson, managing director of Giltspur Furnishing Hire, has been elected president of the BRITISH EXHIBITION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, in succession to Mr. Robert P. Armitage. Mr. C. R. Beeston, Mr. A. R. Brooker and Mr. J. W. Manby have been appointed members of the BECA council.

★

Mr. Lewis Scott, production director of SATCHWELL SUNVIC, has been appointed a director and general manager of the company, which is a member of the GEC Group. He succeeds Mr. Gerry Walsh, who is taking up another post in industry.

★

Following the death of Mr. W. P. T. Sautter, Baron Paul von Ostman, previously an executive with the export department of the HOLSTEN BRAUEREI, Hamburg, has been appointed a director of the company and will be based in London. Mrs. K. M. Williams has become secretary of that concern.

★

Mr. Adrian J. R. Collins has been appointed managing director of GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS and Mr. Alan C. Wren has joined the Board.

★

INTEGRATED METAL SYSTEMS has been formed as a subsidiary of Schmiedemeccanica AG of Switzerland. The Board of the new concern consists of Mr. Gianni Martinelli, chairman, Mr. Keith Percival-Barker, managing director, and Mr. C. R. Adlard, financial director and *company secretary.*

★

Monsieur Jacques Camus has been appointed managing director of the DORCHESTER HOTEL, Park Lane, in *place of* Mr. Peter Stafford who has resigned because of ill-health. M. Camus is at present vice-president and managing director *of the Regency Hotel, New York.* The Board of the Dorchester Hotel has been reconstructed and consists of M. Camus, Pageguide Limited and Ascent BV.

In addition, an advisory Board has been set up to advise the Dorchester and its new statutory Board as consultants. This is composed of the following former directors of the Dorchester Hotel: Lord Pritchard (chairman), Sir Robin McAlpine, Sheikh Najib Alamuddin, Mr. Christopher Chataway, the Earl of Westmorland, Sir Iain M. Stewart and Mr. Oswald Davies.

A major capital programme is planned for the Dorchester by Pageguide and Ascent BV. This reconstruction has been carried through to facilitate and expedite *the modernisation programme.*

★

Mr. Alex McIntosh has been appointed chairman of BAKELITE XYLONITE and Mr. Peter Sharrock becomes managing director, following the sale of that company by Union Carbide to BP Chemicals. The BXL board is completed by the following appointments: Dr. K. W. Geddes; Mr. C. R. Fields; Mr. E. Lonsdale (assistant managing director); and Mr. T. J. Fotheringham (director, planning and control). The company secretary is Mr. P. D. Dickins.

★

Mr. Bernard P. Dewe Mathews has been appointed a director of J. HENRY SCHRODER WAGG AND CO.

★

Mr. Bruce Pairman has been appointed to the Board of LEAD INDUSTRIES GROUP.

★

Sir David Thomson, managing director of *the Ben Line* Steamers, has been appointed to the Board of DANAE INVESTMENT TRUST. Mr. Stephen Cockburn has become a director *of Jove Investment Trust.* Both investment trusts are managed by Rivermoor Management Services.

★

Mr. Jack Kennedy, a director and a deputy chairman of FOSTER WHEELER, Reading, Berks., is leaving to become president and chief executive of *Energy* Plant Incorporated, Houston, Texas, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Foster Wheeler Corporation. Mr. J. T. Kelley—previously vice president of project operations, Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation, of Livingston, New Jersey, U.S.—has been elected a director of Foster Wheeler, and takes over from Mr. Kennedy as general manager of the process plants and construction divisions.

★

Mr. Robert Withy has been appointed resident director of DARWISH-CAPPER-NEILL INTERNATIONAL, a joint venture company involved in the design, management and construction of storage and process plants in the Sultanate of Oman.

★

Mr. W. N. Scottorn, managing director of Wolf Electric Tools, has become managing director of the parent company, WOLF ELECTRIC TOOLS (HOLDINGS). Mr. G. M. Wolfe remains chairman of both companies.

★

Mr. John H. Sorotos has resigned his directorships of C. H. BAILEY and BRISTOL CHANNEL SHIP REPAIRERS and has *now left those companies.*

★

ARENSON INTERNATIONAL, the main operating subsidiary of A. Arenson (Holdings), has *replaced its Board of Management* by an executive Board of directors. The new management structure consists of Mr. A. Arenson, chairman, Mr. P. D. Townshend, managing director, Mr. J. H. Sacks, deputy managing director, Mr. S. Tregar, production and works, Mr. J. R. West, UK sales, and Mr. W. G. Eckford, export sales. Mr. B. Southern is chief accountant and secretary to the Board.

★

Mr. P. J. Forbes, Mr. J. W. P. B. Graham and Mr. P. W. K. Moss have been appointed regional directors of THOMSON'S EQUITY AND LIFE BROKERS.

★

Mr. Peter H. Cole has become chairman of COLE CHEMICALS (R. H. Cole Group) on the retirement of Mr. F. L. Thurston-Moon.

★

ROYAL INSURANCE has made the following executive appointments: Mr. T. R. Monteath, group reinsurance manager to be, in addition, general *manager, Royal Reinsurance;* Mr. A. C. S. Brown, deputy group reinsurance manager to the additional post of deputy general manager, Royal Reinsurance; and Mr. A. L. Robertson, overseas manager, British Engine, to retain his existing title but with group executive status.

★

Mr. F. K. Pointon, Mr. R. St. C. Sandall and Mr. G. Carruthers, executives of the NATIONAL BUS COMPANY, have been appointed to the Board as *full-time executive members.*

★

Mr. H. R. Newcomb is retiring *from the board of R. P. MARTIN* AND CO. from March 31, but will remain a consultant to the group. Mr. P. D. Moore has joined the board as finance director.

★

Following reconstruction of the LINK HOUSE GROUP, *appointments on the Board of* Link House Publications, the parent company, are Mr. G. C. Burt, chairman, Mr. A. W. Isaac, vice-chairman, Mr. R. J. Wenn, *chief executive*, Mr. W. T. Isaac and Group Capt. J. E. Boré. Mr. R. J. Wenn has been made chairman and managing director of Link House Publications (Management).

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UK NEWS

THOUSANDS LAID OFF AS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES DWINDLE

Lorry strike brings mounting chaos

BY COLLEEN TOOMEY

THERE was little let-up in the mounting chaos across British industry yesterday, in spite of an easing of picketing by striking lorry drivers in most regions.

Thousands more workers were sent home, and many more will be without work next week when companies implement contingency plans made in the face of dwindling raw material supplies.

Northern Ireland yesterday remained strangled by the tanker and lorry drivers strikes, although the army began moving essential oil supplies under the state of emergency declared by Mr. Roy Mason, Ulster Secretary, late on Thursday night.

The Confederation of British Industry protested that industry was not on the list, claiming that well over 10,000 workers have now been laid off and 20,000 more would be out of work by next week.

Other areas also faced increasing disruption. More than 7,500 workers have been laid off in Scotland, with further closures likely on Monday. In the North, lay-offs approaching 1m are forecast soon.

The textile industry, one of the worst-hit sectors, was expected to have laid off up to 30,000 workers yesterday.

In the South West and Wales the CBI heard that at least 20,000 workers had been given seven days notice of lay-off, but the figure could be substantially higher.

More than 20,000 workers in the Midlands are already idle, and the CBI repeated that its estimate of 750,00 lay-offs could be reached by the end of next week if picketing continues.

Unofficial action by both road haulage and petrol tanker drivers in the region yesterday was described as an "absolute shambles" by Mr. Bob Ward, regional secretary of the Road Haulage Association.

Production in the motor industry, Britain's major exporter, will come close to a standstill next week if the road haulage dispute continues. BL has already laid off 350 from the Dolomite factory at Coventry. It said that all production of Austin-Morris vehicles would be halted by next Wednesday, and other divisions would also grind to a halt.

Ford halted production of agricultural tractors at Basildon, laying off 500 of the total 3,200 workforce.

The £3.5bn British plastics industry with more than 250,000 employees faces complete shutdown if the lorry drivers' strike continues for another two weeks.

Most of the chemical industry, employing nearly 500,000 people, will have stopped production by the end of next week, the Chemical Industries Association said. Some companies have already invoked gradual run-down measures required for safe stoppage of production.

Several Fleet Street newspapers are likely to be shut by the middle of next week, if the strike continues to prevent newsprint deliveries. The unofficial strike reduced supplies, but the official strike makes the position much more difficult.

Most newspapers carry comparatively small stocks close to their presses, because of the congestion of Fleet Street. They rely on deliveries from warehouses outside London, and on supplies from the ports.

Newspapers which use a high proportion of UK-produced newsprint are in a better position, because Bowaters and Reed, the two UK suppliers, are still delivering supplies. Their drivers are not involved in the dispute.

Provincial papers with smaller circulations are not likely to be as seriously hit as Fleet Street. Thomson Regional Newspapers, for example, expects its papers to continue publication for the next two weeks, although some editions may have to be printed with fewer pages.

The position of provincial papers will depend on the level of their stocks when the strike started.

Several large companies have already sent workers home. Dunlop, closed all four of its main tyre factories last night putting 4.700 workers out of work.

United Biscuits has laid off 4,500 workers from four factories, and Rowntree Mackintosh sent home 1,000 workers after essential raw materials ran out. The company said the shortage was now so critical, all 20,000 workers would be laid off by the end of next week, if the situation did not ease.

Cadbury-Schweppes has laid off 1,000 workers, although all plants are in production.

The majority of the 1,000 process workers at Albright and Wilson's Marchon chemical works, members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, were laid off yesterday.

Courtaulds may have to lay off 9,500 workers by the end of next wek without further supplies. All 105,000 workers in Britain will later be sent home if the situation worsens.

Avon Rubber, which has contingency plans to lay off its entire production force of 3,000, said that "a crack of light" had appeared yesterday. Picketing stopped and limited supplies began trickling through.

Unilever has been solidly picketed this week throughout the country. The priority distribution agreement may make some difference to its critical delivery and supply problem. If not, 20,000 lay-offs next week are on the cards.

Imperial Chemical Industries said yesterday it was using some of its car parks for storage because of the big build-up

Shoppers warned of severe shortages

By David Churchill, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

PANIC BUYING of the dwindling supply of processed food available since the lorry drivers dispute started is expected to reach its peak today.

The weekend is always busiest for most food stores but supermarket chiefs believe that growing fears about the dispute worsening will force demand to record levels.

Food industry leaders predict severe curtailment in supplies within days. Sir Hector Laing, chairman of the Food and Drink Industries Council and United Biscuits, said yesterday up to 70 per cent of food manufacturers could be shut by the end of next week unless supplies were allowed in and out of the factories.

The number of factories shut would depend on how far pickets obeyed instructions not to hamper food supplies, but, whatever happened, there would be severe shortages of supplies of most processed food in the next few weeks because of the disruption to the normal food distribution system.

Sir Hector, and other food industry leaders, believe it is realistic to give the warning although it is likely to increase panic buying. Supermarket executives are worried that if the present rate of demand continues their supplies will run out much earlier than anticipated.

Crush

J. Sainsbury reported yesterday that demand was 50 per cent higher than normal for a Friday and that the crush in some stores, such as in Putney in South-west London, had to be closed for short periods because of the numbers of shoppers in the store.

All 14 Tesco depots, which supply some 40 per cent of groceries to Tesco's 600 stores, were working relatively normally and had stocks for up to two weeks. However, supplies from manufacturers who supplied shops direct had been curtailed.

Some Tesco and other supermarkets have already imposed a limited form of rationing on basic foodstuffs such as butter but not on more readily available foodstuffs. Fresh vegetables and meat were still reaching most shops, which had reduced demand for tinned and frozen vegetables.

Some of the voluntary groups of grocers, such as Spar and VG, are also able to get supplies through to their members from their wholesale depots, but an increasing number of small food shops who rely on manufacturers' deliveries are rapidly running out of all foods.

Tories to seek non-aggression pact with unions

BY JOHN HUNT, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

THE NEXT Conservative Government will seek a "non-aggression pact" with the unions in key areas of national life, Mr. James Prior, Conservative spokesman on employment, said last night.

"We shall try for an agreement with the unions, under which they would give up the right to strike in return for a guarantee on pay," he told a meeting of businessmen in Huddersfield.

On picketing, the next Conservative government would re-affirm the existing law on the nature of peaceful persuasion and would seek a widespread agreement on a sensible code of conduct.

"Events of this week have shown that the issue of where pickets can operate and who can picket must be considered afresh."

He hinted that, in order to achieve this, the Conservatives would repeal changes in the law which have been made by the present Government and which, he argued, had encouraged blacking and sympathetic picketing.

Mr. Prior, in a long and detailed speech, was developing the theme which had been touched on by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative leader, in her television appearance last Sunday.

Blame

He, and other Conservative spokesmen, said the big unions were misusing their power. With a general election in the offing, Tory spokesmen up and down the country berated the Government and claimed that its industrial relations policies were largely to blame for the present crisis.

Mr. Prior backed Mrs. Thatcher's remarks of last Sunday, but made it clear that her hint on possible changes in the supplementary benefit paid to strikers' families had not been finally agreed as Tory policy.

The "shadow" Cabinet, he said, had a number of ideas under discussion, including a proposal for relating supplementary benefit to the holding of a secret ballot.

Another suggestion was that, in determining the level of supplementary benefit paid to a striker's family, it should automatically be assumed that the union involved was paying a reasonable level of strike pay.

Mr. Prior re-affirmed that the Conservatives were pledged to provide public money for expenses incurred in postal ballots for elections to union office.

Turning to the closed shop, he said union membership agreements should be drawn up in keeping with a sensible code of practice. This will provide that a closed shop could only be introduced if a masssive majority of workers voted in favour of it. Existing employees, and those who objected on reasonable grounds of conscience, would be exempt.

He said the present strike situation showed that Britain had retreated into selfishness, spite, and downright bloody-mindedness. He challenged Mr. Len Murray, TUC General Secretary, and the leaders of the big unions to justify the way they had used their power and to explain why Britain's industrial performance was so much worse than its competitors.

Mr. Norman Fowler, Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the action of the Transport and General Workers' Union in making the lorry drivers' strike official, was "a declaration of industrial war against the public" and would cause mass unemployment and suffering.

He said the suggestion by Mr. Moss Evans, the union's leader, that lorry drivers were underpaid was not worthy of consideration. An investigation by the Price Commission had found that at the top of the scale average weekly earnings for car transportation drivers was £120-plus. Bulk tanker (non-food) drivers received £108 and refrigerated vehicle drivers £100 per week. At the bottom end of the scale, parcels drivers received £65 and household removal drivers £69.

North West forecast of 1m shut out

BY RHYS DAVID, NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

SEVERE PRODUCTION cuts as a result of the transport drivers' strike were reported yesterday by a number of companies in the North West.

The gloomiest forecast is about 1m lay-offs in the region very soon, the total predicted for the country as a whole by Mr. Denis Healey.

One of the worst-hit sectors is textiles, where an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 workers were expected to be given lay-off notices yesterday.

The industry has already been hit by the severe fuel shortages in the region where deliveries are only slowly returning to normal and now there are no supplies of vital chemicals coming from ICI and other suppliers.

The picketing of ICI's Mond division in Cheshire means that caustic soda used for bleaching is not getting through and so a number of finishing works are expected to close next week.

The shortage of base chemicals from Mond is also beginning to have a serious effect on other ICI operations in the area. The organics division with plants in Manchester, Yorkshire and Scotland has cut production by 70 per cent because of shortages of caustic and hydrochloric acid used in the manufacture of dyestuffs and other chemicals.

The division is also unable to move export orders worth £100m a year because of its dependence on private hauliers.

In the textile industry another major problem is the disruption in Northern Ireland which accounts for about one-third of total fibre output in the UK.

Among the major textile groups, both Total and Courtaulds stress the serious effect on their operations yesterday and both reported problems with indirect picketing.

Tootal lost about two to three days production earlier this week at three mills as a result of the oil shortage, but expects to have all its plants operating next week until the drivers' strike begins to bite.

Courtaulds warned that without further supplies lay-offs of 9,500 employees would be inevitable within the next seven days and that the majority of the group's 105,000 UK workers could soon be affected.

The company said: "Difficulties caused by picketing cannot be overstressed. The principal difficulty has been caused at the docks. Normally we would expect at this time of year to be moving about 150 consignments a day but this has dropped steadily to 50.

At factories where no one is involved in the dispute—for example at Grimsby, at British Cellophane in Bridgwater, at Westcroft Mill in Bradford and at Greenfield in North Wales—indirect and secondary picketing has had serious effects or will do so within a matter days."

The repercussions of picketing at the British Cellophane works could mean that food distribution will be affected. Customers were now pleading for packaging materials, Courtaulds said. The group also warned that jobs were at stake and factories which closed might not all reopen.

In other parts of the North ther is now a threat to steel production, as a result of heavy picketing of Sheffield steel works. Some plants in the city are expected to stop smelting next week because of raw material shortages and lack of storage space for finished products.

Collieries in South Yorkshire have also been picketed in a bid to prevent the movement of coal, and food processes in the area including confectionery manufacturers George Bassett, and Batchelors have also warned of lay-offs.

Army moves oil supplies in Ulster

By Stewart Dalby

NORTHERN IRELAND, much of it shivering in the grip of snow and ice, slid further towards paralysis yesterday, as the region's tanker drivers continued their strike, although the army began moving essential supplies of oil, under the state of emergency declared by Mr. Roy Mason, the Secretary of State, on Thursday night.

There had been fears of clashes between the army — 300 extra soldiers, including drivers and other specialists — and the tanker drivers who have been picketing the North's oil refinery, the BP terminal at Sidenham, Belfast harbour.

However, the 9,000 tanker drivers, who, unlike their British counterparts, did not accept the settlement last Wednesday, decided to let in the soldiers. Today 9,000 drivers meet to consider the offer their British colleagues have accepted.

Yesterday, the troops started to move oil to depots and installations. Dairies and hospitals were the main recipients of supplies today.

The state of emergency which Mr. Mason declared under the Emergency Powers Act stipulates 31 categories allowed to receive petrol. There is to be no general petrol rationing.

The categories include army, police, fire brigade, accident services, nurses, doctors, social service workers and vets. They also embrace workers involved in electricity, gas and water services, railway and bus and airport employees, as well as sewage workers. Anybody trying to buy petrol not in the categories given could be prosecuted.

Today the Army will start delivering petrol to 65 special garages. If these garages decline to take the petrol for fear of reprisals by tanker drivers after the strike is over, the Army itself will man 20 special garages.

There have been further massive lay-offs in industry which does not come in the special categories for receiving oil. Yesterday, Short Brothers laid off a further 2,000 men, reducing its 8,000 workforce by half. ICI also laid off workers. The total now laid off is 18,000.

More strike crisis news on page 24

Fuel shortage hits Midlands industries

BY ARTHUR SMITH, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

MIDLANDS INDUSTRY faced mounting disruption last night because of unofficial action by both road haulage and petrol tanker drivers.

More than 20,000 workers are already idle and Dunlop tyres large company became the first to shut down production last night.

Petrol and heating oil supplies throughout the West Midlands are drying up because of picketing by 62 Texaco drivers—the only men to have rejected the national pay deal offered by the oil companies.

Mr. Geoff Parkes, speaking for the 3,500 Midlands tanker drivers, said round-the-clock pickets had been placed on seven oil terminals affecting 12 companies.

Shell, BP and Esso had stopped the pay of drivers refusing to cross the picket line, and many of these men were now helping the Texaco campaign.

No progress could be expected until the Texaco men met next Wednesday, he added.

The regional office of the Confederation of British Industry warned that many companies are already down to 48 hours supply of heating oil. Nearly all garages in the Birmingham area are closed.

In the road haulage dispute about 500 drivers voted in Birmingham yesterday to continue their unofficial strike and "bring the city to a standstill."

The Transport and General Workers' Union has excluded the West Midlands from its official national strike as the Road Haulage Association in the region has already agreed to pay its 10,000 drivers the best general level awarded in other regions.

The unofficial action leaders are claiming widespread support. But Mr. Robert Ward, regional secretary of the RHA, said fewer than 1,000 men were on strike, mostly in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Only 42 of the 1,700 member companies were affected.

Motor makers fear closures next week

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION in the UK motor industry, the country's major exporter, will stop almost completely next week if the road haulage dispute continues.

BL warned last night that production of all cars and commercial vehicles will be halted by Friday.

It said: "The damage which will be caused in the export market — running at £1bn a year — will not only be short-term but also long-term as Britain has to struggle again to overcome its poor image abroad."

The group has already laid off 350 from the Dolomite production line at Coventry.

It said last night that by next Wednesday all production of Austin Morris vehicles would be halted and by the end of the week Jaguar, Rover, Triumph and the commercial vehicles division would also come to a halt.

Ford has so far maintained full production at its car and truck plants and will work on Monday. But it is reviewing the position on a day-by-day basis.

The group yesterday stopped production of agricultural tractors at Basildon and 500 out of its 3,200 workers were laid off. "It is only a matter of time and it is inevitable that we will feel further effects next week," it said.

All motor companies are having to improvise—BL is stockpiling incomplete cars, for example. But the difficulties in transporting vital components are being made worse by the dispute hitting suppliers who are short of raw materials.

Dunlop, for example, said yesterday it would close its four main tyre factories at midnight and lay off nearly 4,700 out of 11,000 employees at the works—Fort Dunlop, Birmingham; Speke, Liverpool; Washington, Tyne and Wear; and Inchinnan, near Glasgow.

At Vauxhall, production on some models has been slowed and, although the group will be working on Monday, it is "keeping an hourly watch on the position."

The main impact so far is that the group has stopped night shift working on heavier trucks at its Bedford commercial vehicles plant.

Feed stuffs not always let through

By Christopher Parkes

SUPPLIES of human foods and animal feeding stuffs remained blocked in many parts of the country yesterday behind "sympathetic" picket lines despite hopes and assurances that they would be freed.

Although there was some movement in a few areas there were many complaints that essential raw materials were not getting through. Soyabean meal producers were shipping out some proteins but deliveries were being halted by pickets at the feed factories.

Food factories run by Imperial Tobacco's Nitrovit subsidiary and RHM in the North were still unable to get protein ingredients from Hull docks.

Close to London a trader in skimmed milk powder—a commodity widely used in animal feed—said he had 30,000 tonnes in stock but was able to ship out only 3 per cent of normal deliveries.

At Tate and Lyle's London sugar refinery drivers voted to strike yesterday, effectively cutting off a large section of the South-east's food processing industry from essential supplies of sweeteners.

Tate drivers elsewhere in the country were also considering strike action.

In Wisbech, Spillers Foods laid off 400 workers at its pet food factory because of a shortage of raw materials.

A leading tallow manufacturer warned that the build-up of unprocessed offal and abattoir waste could quickly become a major health hazard.

Bacon will be scarce next week. Danish imports are not getting through and English curers have been hit by the shortage of salt.

Milk supplies are said to be adequate in London and other urban areas, but dairies have appealed to householders to return empties promptly.

Foods in short supply included salt, coffee, biscuits, butter, margarine and oils.

Curbs on picketing 'limit basic right'

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

IT COULD be argued that a basic right "peacefully to try to persuade others" was being removed if picketing were restricted to people directly involved in a dispute, the Department of Employment says in a consultative document.

The Government keeps an "open mind" in the document, sent to interested parties recently, on whether changes in the law or other measures would help solve problems of picketing.

The question is whether any change in the law will "solve fully the problems arising from the inevitable friction between two groups of people, one of which wants to do something the other wishes it not to do," the document says.

The public had an interest in not having highways or footpaths obstructed, in not having nuisance outside homes and in the avoidance of violence.

Suggested changes in the law had included a limited right to stop vehicles. It had been argued against this, however, that it would confer on pickets a power exercisable only by the police and other statutory uniformed officials.

Proposals that the police might be specifically authorised to stop vehicles at the request of pickets had not proved acceptable.

One justification put forward for such suggestions was that they would end the need for mass picketing, which often caused "most of the trouble and most of the publicity." In some cases this might be so but there was evidence that mass picketing could stem "not so much from the pickets' inability to communicate with those attempting to cross the picket line but from their frustration that these attempts at persuasion have not been successful."

From time to time suggestions had been made for statutory restrictions on picketing.

These included a limit on numbers, statutory authorisation and identification of pickets, restriction of picketing to certain kinds of people (for example those involved directly in a dispute or members of the union involved) and the restriction of picketing to, for example, establishments directly affected by the dispute.

Limiting numbers was open to the objection that it would be difficult to prescribe the appropriate maximum in any given circumstance, and, where a legal limit was exceeded, to decide who had no right to be there. Statutory identification would present problems of administration and enforcement.

Restricting picketing to people directly involved in a dispute would create problems of definition and enforcement.

Over 5,000 laid off in Scottish plants

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE set up two emergency rooms in Edinburgh and Glasgow yesterday to handle difficulties caused by the haulage dispute, which is now in its second week in Scotland and beginning to bite.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 workers have been laid off and more closures are expected from Monday. The hardest hit have been the food-processing industries.

Some fish-processing factories have closed or cut working hours, and about 500 fishing boats are confined to port as their catches cannot be taken to markets.

Local strike committees are allowing deliveries of animal feedstuffs to farms and farmers are taking their own milk to creameries.

Corn Starch Products, previously Brown and Poulson, laid off 700 workers from their Paisley factory and the Boots distribution centre at Airdrie has also been badly hit.

ICI has closed its nylon works at Ardeer, which employs 800, and may have to put other plants there on reduced working from next week. The company's Grangemouth complex, which produces chemicals mainly for export, may also have to reduce output.

BL Vehicles is to lay off 700 men from its Bathgate truck and tractor factory from Monday.

The CBI in Scotland said that the situation was becoming very serious rapidly, but the Scottish TUC warned workers to check carefully on the reasons for lay-offs in case some companies used the strike as an excuse to mask under-capacity working.

Scotland's four major airports at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen have been unable to get supplies of de-icing fluid but were also hit by yesterday's 24-hour strike of British Airways' pilots.

SE companies escape closure

THE LATEST check of about 40 companies in London and the South East by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry shows that there have been no closures yet.

"Most of the firms we have contacted say that they have between two and three weeks of supplies, and don't intend to lay-off any men at present," the Chamber said.

The main problem affecting companies is the hold-up of supplies through the ports, and the stoppage of agricultural foodstuffs.

Wales and South-West face critical week

IN THE south west and Wales, CBI information indicated that at least 20,000 workers have been given seven days' notice of layoff, but the actual numbers likely to be affected could well be substantially higher.

There were no reports that the union instruction to restrict picketing to the hire and reward sector of the haulage business had made any immediate difference.

In Cwmbran, about 600 employees at Burton Gold Medal Biscuits, part of the Weston Group, have already been laid off because of lack of supplies of fats from Liverpool.

Alcoa reported increasing difficulties at its Swansea plant. No sheet aluminium for the packing industry has left the works since last Monday and its supply of ingots from processing are held up in Swansea docks. Production at the plant could be hit next week.

Rodgers summons crisis chairmen

BY PAUL TAYLOR

MR. WILLIAM RODGERS, Transport Secretary, has called together the eight chairmen of the English regional emergency committees for a meeting tomorrow to discuss their function during the lorry drivers' strike.

The committees, based on existing regional Department of Transport offices throughout England, were "activated" by the Cabinet on Thursday following the decision of the Transport and General Workers Union to make the road haulage strike official.

The inter-departmental committees, chaired by a Department of Transport regional director have two main functions, to solve transport problems in consultation with local union officials and to provide Mr. Rodgers, and the Cabinet, with daily reports on the effects of the strike on transport and industry.

Plans for the emergency committees were begun before Christmas after joint meetings between Ministers and Departmental Officials in preparation for the tanker drivers' strike which had been expected to start on January 3. Last night, however, the Prime Minister's Office was unable to say whether the plans which have led to the Committee's going into operation were part of a wider network of contingency plans.

Officials from the Department of Health and Social Security and of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are also involved in the regional committees. They have been given instructions to liaise with both industry and the union in an attempt to solve supply problems on a local basis with reference to a five point list of priority supply movements drawn up by Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Harry Urwin, deputy general secretary of the T and GWU.

The daily reports to Mr. Rodgers are expected to form the basis on which the Cabinet decides whether or not to call a State of Emergency.

Foreign companies cancel shipments

BY LYNTON McLAIN

FOREIGN SHIPPING companies cancelled services to British ports yesterday as docks in some regions reached saturation point with cargoes trapped by picketing lorry drivers.

The Danish DFDS line cancelled its roll-on roll-off services between Grimsby and Scandinavia. The company's Humber terminal was blocked by imported goods including food. Exports of Danish bacon built up at the Danish port of Esbjerg.

Two Tor Line vessels were discharged at Immingham, but the goods filled all available space and the Tor terminal is now blocked.

The container depot at Southampton used for trans-shipping goods from the Far East to British and continental markets reached saturation point yesterday, the British Transport Docks Board said.

At least 100 British registered ships lay in UK ports last night awaiting export cargoes that did not arrive from UK manufacturers.

British shipping companies lost at least £3m this week and the revenue lost as a direct result of the lorry drivers' dispute will double by the middle of next week if the industrial action continued, the General Council of British Shipping said.

Five foreign and British vessels loaded with imports, including fresh fruit, were diverted from the port of Liverpool this week as dockside storage space filled up.

Two-thirds of the port's storage space and 80 per cent of the timber import area were filled by last night. Lorry movements at the port were down to 5 per cent of normal.

The Port of London Authority said Tilbury was gradually coming to a standstill. Dockers continued to handle all imports at the port and the few export cargoes that remained in quayside sheds.

The authority told timber merchants in the South East that it was prepared to give sympathetic consideration after the dispute to companies which felt upset by the port's decision to continue quay rents for cargoes trapped by the dispute.

● The dispute has caused a fuel shortage on the Portsmouth-Channel Isles roll-on, roll-off service operated by British Rail Sealink. Sailings are being cut by a fifth.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

The phoney war

The air may have been thick with forecasts of doom last week, with the word "crisis" staring out from every newspaper front page, but the equity market breathed an atmosphere of phoney war. Prices were marked down a little in the absence of buyers — those who would follow the adage and "buy on a strike" were apparently waiting for a few more strikes to buy on — but there was no panic selling, something of a disappointment to investors hoping to pick up cheap stock. This is no guarantee of what may happen next week, however.

Gilts took a clearer, if still modest, turn for the worse, and yields on high-coupon longs, which more optimistic holders had supposed to be already discounting very bad news, moved up to the 13¾ per cent level. Sterling, which had stood up well to the Ford strike, began to weaken and the historically high real rate of return on short gilts is threatened with erosion. Inflation, after all, has been speeding up since November, according to the Price Commission Index, and estimates of the prospective average figure for wage settlements are being revised upwards as a result of the haulage strike. The major public sector wage decisions, such as for local authority workers, cannot be put off much longer. Government borrowing figures did nothing to help.

Despite this gloomy background the medium tap stock, Exchequer 12¼ per cent 1985, was exhausted early in the week. It promptly fell back below its issue price. Yesterday the authorities announced the issue of a tranche of Treasury 12 per cent 1983 at 97½ per cent.

Plessey pulls out

Even more surprising, perhaps, was the ease with which over 8m shares in ICL, representing the 24.4 per cent stake belonging to Plessey, were placed with institutions (and a small amount with the NEB) on Thursday at an 8 per cent discount—415p against Wednesday's closing price of 450p, bringing in £33.5m.

Plessey had built up its strategic stake in ICL, even taking up some of GEC's holding when GEC sold out, in the expectation of close links between telecommunications and data processing. In the event the scope for co-operation between the two companies did not develop in quite the way anticipated. Recently, too, Plessey has faced the possibility of having its holding diluted if ICL were to decide to raise money through a rights issue; Plessey would have been unlikely to subscribe to any rights offer.

Plessey was not highly geared but the sale will reduce its net borrowings to the region of £40m on shareholders' funds of £240m and should make it unnecessary for it to raise funds through a rights issue of its own at the moment.

The company claims it will have no capital gains tax to pay on the disposal as it has enough capital losses to offset the gain:

LONDON
ONLOOKER

no details have been given, but presumably Garrard will contribute something. ICL sees the NEB's stake increased to 25 per cent (from 24.4 per cent, the same as Plessey's was) and the rest of the shares spread among a large number of institutions. The placing was comfortably oversubscribed, but there was subsequently some indigestion in the market and ICL shares fell back by 20p or so. Plessey held at 115p on Thursday but lost some ground yesterday.

The property company Haslemere Estates asked shareholders for £12.1m through a rights issue on Tuesday. This may turn out to be unhappily timed if the market turns down sharply, but Haslemere's institutional following—some of which did very nicely out of the 1975 rights issue—may be relied upon to support the issue, especially as this is one of the few property companies which could not raise money more effectively by selling off assets.

Sime steps in

Tun Tan Siew Sin, chairman of Sime Darby (Holdings) this week dismissed the idea that his company's £122m bid approach to Guthrie Corporation was at all political. "Purely a business transaction" was how he described it.

He went on to say how grateful he was for remarks made on Tuesday by the deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, who had commended the mooted bid as a legitimate takeover plan with "no fiddling around or asset stripping."

The approach makes a great deal of sense as a business transaction, but it is certainly not without political ramifications.

The Malaysian government and business community regard the acquisition of natural resources companies by Malaysian companies, as an article of faith. And the government has control of over 20 per cent of Sime Darby's equity. So although the bid for Guthrie might not have been the idea of the government, it surely has its approval.

This means that no overseas companies can feel welcome to make a counter-bid. Several British companies would normally be interested in making a competing offer. But they would probably not want to bid against the explicit wishes of the host country. This factor effectively brings down the price which Sime will have to pay to get Guthrie.

Secondly, government approval for the Sime approach means that Guthrie is somewhat miffed. Guthrie has been one of the most willing British plantation companies to be "Malaysianised." It has co-operated in handing over equity stakes to local investors. Now, for its pains, it is the object of a takeover from a company closely associated with the government, while other companies who were less helpful have not been approached.

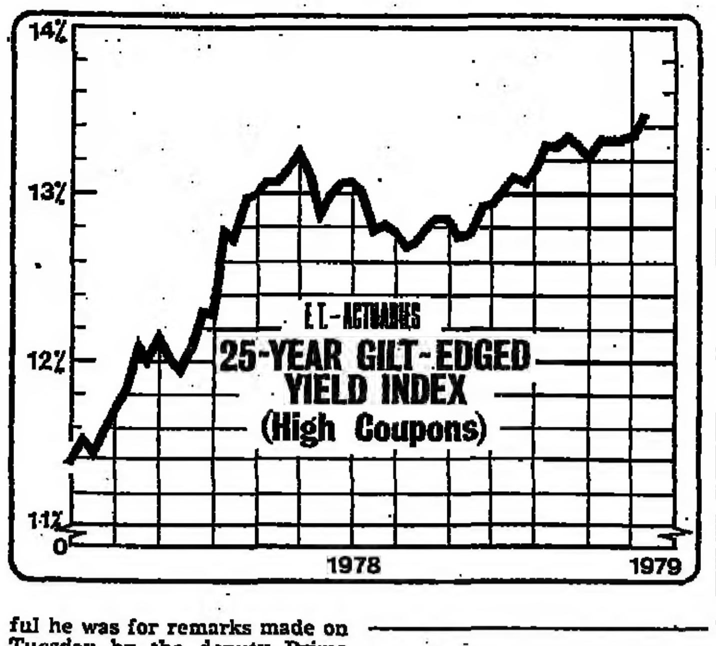
Thirdly it means that the government is content to see Sime Darby become a dominating company in Malaysia. It is already the largest company there and if it takes over Guthrie it will be a giant in relation to the rest of the corporate sector.

Reluctant Averys

There were some other developments, mostly negative, in other mooted bids. Averys turned down GEC's £83m offer, saying it preferred to remain independent, and GEC has yet to make a counter-statement.

Johnson-Richards Tiles said it saw no merit in the approach from Norcros, and advised shareholders to take no action for the moment. J-R's case was improved by its interim figures, which show a smart advance in profits and make the Norcros offer—not yet official—look decidedly ungenerous.

On a more successful note, Letraset has now gained control of Stanley Gibbons.



TOP PERFORMING SECTORS IN FOUR WEEKS FROM DECEMBER 14

	% Change
Office Equipment	+9.4
Hire Purchase	+6.0
Banks	+5.3
Overseas Traders	+4.5
Property	+3.6
Shipping	+3.5
All-Share Index	+0.6
THE WORST PERFORMERS	
Chemicals	−0.9
Household Goods	−1.5
Electricals	−1.6
Oils	−1.8
Contracting, Construction	−3.1
Toys and Games	−3.6

Erratic she goes

THE NEW YORK stock market slipped back into its well-established spluttering, volatile pattern this week resembling somewhat a highly tuned motor car fuelled by too low an octane rating. A number of individual stocks fared well as a result of good fourth quarter earnings reports and takeover bids but the market's reflexes were dulled for much of the week by an anxious anticipation of statistics on money supply and producer prices for finished goods. The gentle hum of Wall Street's electronic calculator resulted on Monday in some very pessimistic forecasts of the Federal Reserve Board's latest money supply figures, published every Thursday.

In contrast to much of last year, the various measurements of the money supply have held steady or dropped in the last

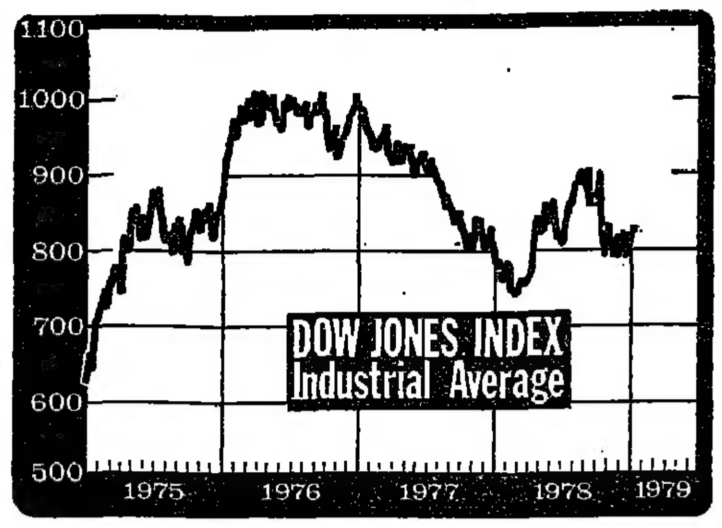
NEW YORK
JOHN WYLES

13 weeks. An official report this week of a surge—some estimates went as high as $5bn—was thought likely to raise goose pimples in the market and as a result there was some anticipatory selling of stocks in the first half of the week.

Well, at 4.10 p.m. on Thursday the Fed issued its weekly report showing that the M1 measure of currency in circulation and money in current accounts was unchanged while the broader measure M2, which includes savings deposits, rose $500m. There are three points to be made about this: forecasting the money supply is often as difficult as predicting snow on Christmas Day, the fact that the market was apparently focusing more on M1 than anything else shows that it has been slow to change its perceptions because the introduction by the commercial banks of interest-bearing current accounts has reduced the significance of this figure, and third, a flat of declining money supply does not hold out the early prospect of a decline in short-term interest rates.

Mr. William Miller, the Fed chairman, made this very clear on Tuesday when he told a business lunch that the U.S. must stick to a tight credit policy as a vital line of attack against inflation. Before the money supply figures were out on Thursday, the Government had produced the latest grim reminder of the current U.S. inflation rate in the shape of a 9.6 per cent annual rate of increase in producer prices during December which brought the 1978 tally up to 9.1 per cent. This figure did the market a power of harm during early trading on Thursday but a recovery was launched by the foreign exchange markets' reaction to the treasury's announcement of a sale next week of Swiss franc denominated notes. The consequent strength of the dollar allied to the money supply figures brought a beam of sunlight into equity trading on Friday and pushed the Dow ahead more than 11 points in the first hour.

These advances and retreats again depict a market of a somewhat neurotic complexion and lacking in general direction. But some individual stocks are more obviously using the right brand of soap. A 29 per cent increase in fourth-quarter earnings added 8½ to the price of Teledyne, the low profile California company with interests ranging from insurance to toothbrushes whose octagonal handles are alleged to boost their cleaning power.



CLOSING INDICES

	Close	Change
Mon.	828.14	−2.59
Tues.	831.43	+3.29
Wed.	824.93	−6.50
Thurs.	828.05	+3.12
Fri.	836.28	+8.23

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price Y'day	Change on Week	1978/9 High	1978/9 Low	
Ind. Ord. Index	474.7	− 4.8	535.5	433.4	Firm undertone holds
AGB Research	133	+17	133	59½	Interim profits up 82%
Ayer Hitam	375	+25	420	240	Good December tin output
E.R.F.	115	−13	143	69½	Profit margins under pressure
Eurotherm	218	+20	218	142	Satisfactory results
Gordon & Gotch	75	− 8	92	65	Poor mid-term profits
Guthrie Corp.	433	+88	443	211	Sime Darby bid
Haslemere	254	−14	272	211	£11.7m rights issue
Home Charm	260	+28	260	100	Press comment
Johnson-Richards Tiles	137	+ 7	138	79	Hopes of higher bid
MFI Furniture	183	+14	185	54	Bid hopes
McCorquodale	303	+23	315	220	Results/capital proposals
Messina	76	+14	104	54	Buoyant base-metal prices
Ofrex	124	+22	124	82	Revived bid hopes
Peko-Wallsend	483	+27	570	310	Govt. go-ahead for Ranger project
Rank Org.	280	+16	296	226	Results due January 24
RTZ	250	+22	263	164	Buoyant base-metal prices
United Scientific	290	+22	382	226	Good electrical sector
Williams & James	134	+31	134	47½	Demand in thin market
Yukon Cons.	200	+30	200	120	Rise in Teck Corp. shares

U.K. INDICES

Average week to	Jan. 12	Jan. 5	Dec. 29
FINANCIAL TIMES			
Govt. Secs.	68.25	68.52	68.67
Fixed Interest	70.36	70.28	70.22
Indust. Ord.	479.5	478.6	474.0
Gold Mines	138.1	138.5	142.4
Do (Ex $ pm)	96.7	97.2	99.6
Dealings mkd.	4,383	3,298	2,225
FT ACTUARIES			
Capital Gds.	235.67	234.24	232.54
Consumer (Durable)	211.02	209.88	208.97
Cons. (Non-Durable)	210.63	209.68	207.79
Ind. Group	220.73	219.43	217.56
500-Share	244.72	243.45	241.82
Financial Gp.	173.30	171.21	169.06
All-Share	225.18	223.37	221.66
Red. Debs.	54.77	54.84	54.81

Falling dollar helps diamond sales

OBSERVERS OF the international rough diamond market have had a surfeit of excitement over the last year, absorbing a succession of developments all springing from the contrast between the rising value of gem stones and the falling value of the dollar. There have been price increases and surcharges, hoarding and speculation. Senses have been dulled.

Normally the publication by De Beers of the figures for the Central Selling Organisation, which handles the movement of over 80 per cent of the world's rough gem stones on to the international market, would have been a climax to the year. In fact, the announcement this week was the confirmation of what had been expected.

The value of CSO sales in 1978 was 23 per cent higher than in 1977 at R2.2bn ($2.55bn) against R1.8bn ($2.07bn). Sales in the second half of the year were slightly higher than in the first half.

The sales were achieved against the background of unprecedented disturbance on the market. The smooth flow of stones from the producers through the CSO to the cutters, thence to the jewellery manufacturers and the retailers, was checked by hoarding in the cutting centres as a hedge against currency uncertainties.

This prompted the CSO first to impose surcharges (not shown on the accompanying graph) and then, as stones began to move out of the cutting centres again, to raise list prices by 30 per cent.

The rise in the sales figures clearly reflects the increase in list prices, which were probably inevitable given the fact that CSO business is quoted in U.S. dollars. Although it is difficult to be precise because of the endless differences in size and quality of stones going on to the market, it seems that the volume of sales in 1978 was less than in 1977.

A reduction in volume, however, was probably necessary if the market was to come to terms with the price rise. The fact that second half sales were higher than those in the first suggests that the market managed to absorb the rise.

Apart from such technical factors, the demand for diamonds has remained strong, helped by

MINING
PAUL CHEESERIGHT

an increase in investment buying. Whether demand will continue at a high level will not be apparent until the early spring when the market emerges from a seasonally slack period.

The buoyancy of the market has been one reason for the sustained interest of investors in the diamond exploration ventures scattered around Western Australia. But the focus of attention remains the Ashton venture, led by Conzinc Riotinto of Australia, and including Ashton Mining, AO (Australia), Tanaust Proprietary, Northern Mining and, for the moment, Sibeka.

CRA's latest quarterly report from Ashton does little to solve the mystery of the discovery's value. Of course, exploration has barely scratched the surface, but the stones recovered so far have generally been small in size. Their concentration has been low by South African standards.

Investors will be hoping that as sampling goes deeper the size will increase. Meanwhile they are waiting for CRA to commission an expert assessment of the quality of the diamonds found so far. Much has been said about, and great hopes have been pinned on, Ashton but little is known and it is still too early to decide whether the discovery will eventually lead to development of a mine.

A mine at Ashton would certainly be a valuable diversification for CRA, but the exploration there is only one part of an expansion programme. The group's freedom to follow this policy has been broadened by the grant to it of "naturalising" status.

This means that Rio Tinto-Zinc will run down its 72.6 per cent holding over an unspecified period, allowing Australian ownership of 51 per cent of the equity. In return, the Australian Government will permit CRA to undertake new projects by itself, or with Australian companies, or with other "naturalising" companies without reviewing each case. But this does not apply to uranium.

The Australian Government's agreement with CRA follows its announced intention to interpret flexibly the policy which seeks majority Australian ownership of natural resource projects. This in turn is part of a policy to encourage more foreign investment in Australia.

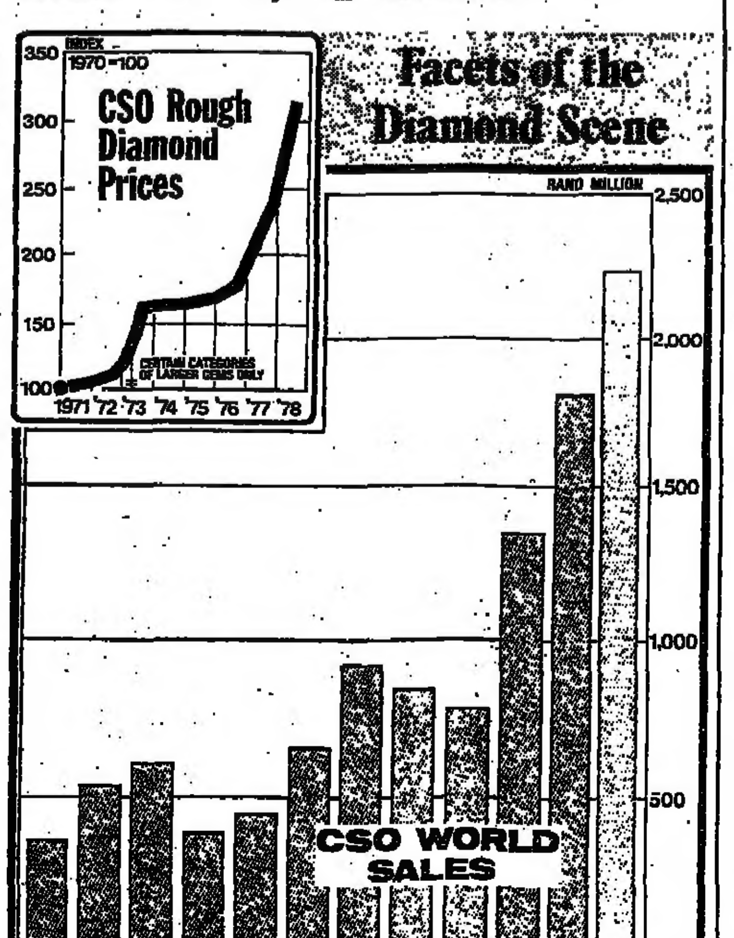
The desire to see quicker development of the minerals industry has also been evident in the Government's cautious determination to see uranium mining start in the Northern Territory with minimum delay.

This week the final approval for the development of the Ranger deposit was given to Peko-Wallsend, EZ Industries and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission. It has been a long time coming. It was four years ago that the Government and the companies signed a memorandum on financing. This provides for the AAEC to put up 72.5 per cent of the capital cost and to keep 50 per cent of the uranium oxide produced.

Peko and EZ Industries said the approval was a "major milestone." The way has opened up for the development of other deposits, notably Nabarlek, discovered by Queensland Mines, and Jabiluka which is held by the Pancontinental-Getty Oil partnership.

Australian uranium should now start coming on to the international market in increasing quantities from 1983, meeting stern competition from the newly-found deposits in Saskatchewan.

Facets of the Diamond Scene



FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

VAT and overseas residents

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

As a non-resident in the UK, both my solicitor and my estate agent do not charge me VAT, since, as I understand it there is an exemption for non-residents.

Could you please tell we whether this applies to hotel bills and car hire charges, for which reservations have been made from abroad?

We are surprised that your estate agent does not charge you VAT, if his or her services relate to land in the UK (or in the *Isle of Man*). The law on this point changed on New Year's Day, in accordance with EEC requirements.

You do not appear to be entitled to any relief from VAT on UK hotel bills or car hire charges, on the bare facts given.

Free explanatory booklet on VAT are obtainable from the office of H.M. Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London, Great Britain EC3R 7HE. You will find topics of particular interest to you in VAT notices 701 (Scope and coverage) and 704 (Retail export schemes).

Undischarged bankrupt

My father went bankrupt in *1930*. Some time ago the official Receiver collected assets he had amassed and has paid 93 pence in the £ even to the unsecured creditors. Among the assets was the house in which he lived and in 1971 it was agreed he should be allowed to reside there until he died. In view of the new law relating to bankruptcy, my father wonders whether the deeds on the house cannot be returned to him. What is he entitled to?

Your father's proper course is to make application in the Bankruptcy Court for his discharge from bankruptcy. There seems to be no reason why this should not be granted; indeed it ought to have been put forward when the matter was considered in 1971. If he obtains his discharge he will of course be entirely free of the restraints which applied while he was an undischarged bankrupt.

Disposal of gains tax

I have exchanged certain holdings in a unit trust for holdings in another trust in the same management group. Will this count as a disposal for Capital Gains Tax purposes?

It is a pity you did not give us more precise details upon which to base our reply. On the bare facts given, the answer is yes: *you will be assessed to* CGT (subject to 17 per cent credit under section 112 of the Finance Act 1972, as amended) as though you had sold the old units and reinvested the proceeds.

Building a party wall

Our neighbour has, without seeking our consent, built a wall along the top edge of our garage. The wall here is two bricks thick, and since the deeds indicate that all dividing walls and fences were intended to be party walls and fences, he has no doubt assumed the right to build on to the outer half of our garage wall, and also to remove a few bricks from his side of the existing structure to facilitate this. Is he, in fact, justified in doing so?

So long as the structure which *your neighbour has built does* not impinge or rest on your half of the party wall (and assuming that the property is not in Inner London) he would appear to have acted within his rights.

An auctioneer's commission

A property consisting of two semi-detached houses, one of them with a paddock and vacant, and the other tenanted, was put up for disposal by auctioneers. The tenant made an offer for the whole and paid a deposit but failed to raise the balance. The whole was then put up for sale by auction and the tenant put up an offer just for the house he occupied. This was accepted and the balance was sold, making the total more than the original offer. However, the auctioneer has rendered his account and is charging for both the first and second property sales 1½ per cent on the sale price, but no charge for the private sale to the tenant of his house. Is this correct?

You do not state what are the terms (as to remuneration) of the auctioneer's retainer. In the absence of express terms in the auctioneer's contract the *court would probably* imply a term that the auctioneer should receive commission on a completed sale or else on introduction of a person ready, willing and able to purchase. As the tenant was not able (or possibly willing) to complete a purchase of the whole, there should be no commission on that sale, but only on the sale to the tenant by private treaty and the auction sale of the untenanted property.

A possessory title

A close friend of mine fenced a plot of land about 14 years ago. He cleared it and used it when in that area for occasional storage of ladders, etc, but it was rejected for registration. The solicitor who applied said that had he adjoining property there would have been no problem. The friend has now offered me the plot, cheap, which is in an area of compusory registration. If I buy will the Land Registry have to register it with a possessory title?

If the Land Registry has already rejected an application it may do so again. There is no constraint which would require you to be registered with an unqualified possessory title unless you can show such a title; and the Chief Land Registrar may require you to establish the claim first in court proceedings. However, it may be that the lapse of further time and the opportunity to collate more compelling evidence that the possession of your friend was truly "adverse," in the technical meaning of the term, will enable you to persuade the Chief Land Registrar to register you with a possessory title.

Improvements to a house

The house in which my husband and I live, was purchased by a trust of which I am a beneficiary and my *two children* are the remaindermen. Over the years my husband has spent quite considerable sums on improvements and repairs. The trust now tells me, that on the sale of the house my husband would receive no reimbursement of his expenditure. Is this in your opinion correct?

We think that the trustees are correct in *their view* that *no* reimbursement for repairs and improvements would be made. However there are some improvements to settled land for which the trustees of the settled land may be required to have recourse to the trust funds. If the improvements fell within that category there might be some case to be made out in respect of those works; although it would be difficult to do this after the works have been carried out.

Validity of a covenant

I have been following the questions and answers on restrictive covenants with interest. One point, however, has not been clarified so far, and that is; how long does a covenant remain valid if the provisions in it are not enforced?

There is no limit to the time during which a restrictive covenant remains valid. If there are material changes in the circumstances such that the nature and character of the neighbourhood has altered fundamentally, a restrictive covenant imposed to protect that character may become obsolete. However, the subject of the first reported case enforcing a restrictive covenant — *Leicester Square* — *would* probably still remain bound by the original covenant. Each case must be considered on its own particular facts.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Husband's claim on an estate

I have been separated from my husband for 22 years, during which he has paid me £16 a week under a court order. Could he make a claim on a house I have recently inherited, if I were to predecease him?

Unless the money which you have inherited is a very considerable fortune there is no question of your husband's being able to claim in your *estate when he has been sup*porting you under a court order for 22 years. Even if your inheritance were very large such a claim is most unlikely to be entertained by the court with any sympathy.

Maintenance for a husband

My husband and I obtained a divorce. He was a waster. I have re-married. My present husband has a fair-sized pension and I have inherited a little money. My ex-husband, who reckons he is badly off, is claiming money from me. If he goes to court, under what circumstances do you think I might have to pay something to him?

We think it unlikely that you would be ordered to pay maintenance or a lump sum to your ex-husband, unless you were in the habit of maintaining *him* during the subsistence of the marriage. If so, you might be ordered to pay a similar sum now.

UNIT TRUST AND INSURANCE OFFERS

Addicted Revenue watchers will be fascinated by the gratuitous acceptance that there is often at present "a lack of focus, and a director's affairs tend to get lost a bit between the company accounts and his own file."

The Revenue's efforts to keep track of the self-employed

TAXATION
DAVID WAINMAN

"YOU SAID that there were *dangers* in using the relationship between administrative costs and revenue collected as a measure of efficiency . . . you were seeking a more useful management indicator. . . . ?" ". . . I think we have confirmed that these cost-yield ratios, which is what we now prefer to call them, tell us much less about our own departmental efficiency in collecting tax than about the underlying nature of our tax system. Ours is, as I think the figures quite clearly show, a costly system; there is no denying that . . . we are only looking at a part of the problem when we look at our own costs. *What we really must* try to do is to look at the total resource costs."

Question and response are from the cross-examination of Sir William Pile, Chairman of *the Board of Inland Revenue*, recorded in last July's report of the Public Accounts Committee. Too true to be funny, you think? then read on. Sir William stood in front of the committee twice, answering two separate sets of questions.

The second occasion was a fortnight later, when he spent the greater part of his time responding to inquiries about his department's apparent *failures to collect tax which* was seemingly overdue. There were two areas upon which the Comptroller and Auditer General had laid his accusing finger.

One was the preceeding year basis of taxing the self-employed —the Comptroller had spotted 13 partnerships who during life cycles from commencement to cessation had managed not to pay tax on some £12m, or 23 per cent of the profits they had earned. How this could occur, and Sir William's ideas for stopping the rot and the rotters have been extensively reported and commented upon both here and elsewhere. Readers of this column can almost certainly manage without another rehearsal of the dreaded "current year basis."

But the second question upon which the Public Accounts Committee put Sir William on their carpet was a weakness in the taxation of director's remuneration, also previously highlighted by the Accountant and Comptroller General. We will see in a moment what that weakness was, and what Sir William proposed to do about it; but as we do so, we should be constantly calling to mind his own words with which this article opened. What will be the total resource costs of righting this particular wrong?

Tax collected from earnings under PAYE constitutes 75 per cent of all income tax collections (or 62 per cent of the Inland Revenue's total tax take), but occupies only 18 per cent of the Inspectorate and 30 per cent of the efforts of Collectors. This is a source of pride to the Revenue, and reflects the oft-repeated assertions that PAYE is a superbly efficient tax *gatherer, and that it is only the* self-employed who are able to get away with murder.

So how had these directors managed to be so *murderous*? Remuneration of both directors and employees becomes taxable under the PAYE regulations only "on the making of any *payment of, or on account of,* any income assessable." These words in section 204 of the Taxes Act 1970 were said to be being honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

Many family companies vote their directors' remuneration only after the annual accounts have been prepared. But in some cases those directors have been allowed to draw on account of their expected earnings during the accounting year concerned, and in defiance of the Companies Acts these drawings are frequently treated as loans to the directors concerned.

The Revenue view is that a drawing of unvoted remuneration constitutes, from the company's point of view, the "making of a payment." Failure to account at that time for PAYE which should have been deducted was the main cause of the reported "loss" of tax being sustained by the Revenue.

Sir William made it clear that a significant part of this lost tax was subsequently paid over to him, when the PAYE returns were belatedly submitted. But he also explained his department's views on the changes necessary to plug this loophole. His advice has gone to Ministers: when he was reporting to the Public Accounts Committee, those Ministers were still considering whether to act on that advice.

In addition to reorganisation and retraining of the Inspectorate he indicated that three changes were necessary in the law. First, Collectors of Taxes can only demand PAYE after it has been shown as due on a return. They cannot at present *assess and collect in the absence* of a return. If a return is not submitted the Collector's only recourse is the cumbersome penalty procedure for those who fail to submit returns. Secondly, PAYE paid late does not, as the law presently stands, cost interest. And thirdly, Sir William reported that the legal interpretation of "payment" was far from clear.

Those who consider the making of tax laws to be a political game will appreciate his views on interest. "We will have to single out directors by saying you and you alone will be made the subject of interest charges." And then the ritual obeisance to the sacred cow: "this would also have some effect, we think, on the cash flow of small businesses."

Addicted Revenue watchers will also be fascinated by the gratuitous acceptance that there is often at present "a lack of focus, and a director's affairs tend to get lost a bit between the company accounts and his own file."

The High Court has, however, recently come to Sir William's aid with a splendidly ambivalent interpretation of the word payment. The directors of Newsmith Stainless were voted remuneration, and the company *put the funds at their disposal* in accounts upon which they were entitled to, but did not, draw. They claimed that no payment had taken place.

Mr. Justice Walton threw out their arguments. Payment, he quoted Lord Justice Jenkins as saying, was a word which had no one settled meaning but took its colour from the context in which it was found.

Bad weather claims

INSURANCE
JOHN PHILIP

WITH THE start of each new year, so it seems, the weather takes a hand in our affairs generally, and has a substantial adverse effect on insurers' fortunes. Of course, insurers, whether providing all kinds of property cover or motor or liability insurances, reckon the winter months throw up a large crop of claims, and since premiums reflect both incidence *and cost, and both are reviewed* in the light of long experience as well as short term trends, arguably insurers should have premiums set at levels sufficient to contain the winter surge of claims.

Among recent years, until now, 1976 had proved to be the worst of the decade, with a week's severe storms in early January building up a property damage bill of around £50m in that year's pounds (getting on for £70m in current money terms). This week it is being said that the property damage bill for insurers from the recent snowstorms—calculated to last *weekend, and making no allow*ance for the subsequent return of the bad weather—must be in the region of £25m-£30m: so insurers must be hoping that there is no more to come. These figures are for property damage only and of course do not include any estimate for the substantial claims that will have to be paid for motor damage repairs.

It is at times like these, when *house and car repair bills have* to be met, that many policyholders, whatever their hopes of payment, tend to take a "them and us" attitude, and expect the worst from insurers when they put in their claims. *On* behalf of the company market the BIA has recently uttered reassuring noises—emphasising that most "home" policies on buildings and contents insure damage caused by storms, snow and the subsequent thaw, and that "comprehensive" motor policies similarly insure cars.

But these are exclusions — some home buildings policies do not cover "frost" damage, and none directly cover storm damage to gates or fences. Also there may be some car policies that bear "frost" exclusions — for example where insurers know that the car is always kept in the open, instead of being regularly garaged.

Home policies, both buildings and contents cover damage due to burst *pipes* — *the normal* type of wording instances "escape of water from or the bursting of any fixed domestic water or heating installation."

Once damage has been sustained whether to home, car or some other property, the policyholder cannot just notify insurers of his claim, and then sit back and wait for something to happen. He is under a legal duty to minimise his loss, and if his loss is aggravated by his inactivity, then insurers are entitled to refuse to pay for that aggravation. When pipes burst or snow thaws and there is water damage it is common sense, insured or not, to get the water mopped up, and furniture and property dried out. The reasonable cost of mopping up *and drying out, since it restricts* the damage sustained and the amount insurers will have to pay, is normally a valid part of the claim — a point that is often overlooked when claims are made.

At the present time insurers, if not inundated with claims, certainly have a large number to handle, and it may be that in some places their claims service is currently a little stretched. For a few days after notification patience must be of the essence, before an acknowledgement is received and positive instructions given. So the policyholder with urgent repair is well advised to get in touch with plumber, builder or car repairer, to get even a verbal estimate and to ring insurers to let them know the likely cost: then they will quickly be able to say whether they want to inspect the damage and will be able to outline what next the policyholder should do. But *it is essential to keep* a sense of proportion at such times: there is no point in badgering insurers about repairs to a garden shed blown over in a gale, although there is every good reason to talk to them about repairs to a snowstorm damaged roof before things get worse.

I mentioned that insurers do not pay *for* storm damage to fences and gates, but of course they do pay for impact—so that if a car skids off the road because of ice, and damages a fence, there is a valid "home" policy claim: there may also be a good liability claim against the motorist, which his insurers *have to handle.*

Liability cover is provided under home policies, so that the policyholder is protected against his neighbour's claim for damage — and winter weather may be a factor in such claims. For example, on a very windy night early this week, one of my friends had a dead elm tree blown down—this fortunately fell away from his house, but destroyed about 20 feet of his neighbour's wood fence as it fell. What should he do, he enquired.

Reckoning that anyone with a dead elm tree should have long since had it felled, I told him that in all probability he was legally responsible for the repair of the fence, and that he should straightaway let *his* insurers know—it was for them to argue the finer legal points when the neighbours presented their bill. And meantime if he had any more dead trees, he should get them down.

£1m coins deal comes to London market

AFTER MUCH in-fighting the job of selling a £1m U.S. coin collection is coming to Britain. *The director of the* Carnegie Museum, Mr. Craig C. Black, announced in June 1978, that it was to dispose of its vast numismatic collection. Comprising 100,000 coins estimated to realise somewhere between $1.5m to $2m, London's newest coin auctioners, Spink and Son, has been chosen in fierce competition with Americans and British auction houses to dispose of this collection.

As Mr. D. G. Liddell, managing director of Spink and Son stated: "We are delighted to handle a major American museum coin collection."

London has always been a strong coin centre. Although regular coin auctions are held in major European cities, there are undoubtedly more coin auctions held in London each year. As a London auctioneer is to handle the sale of the Carnegie Collection, London's prestige is enhanced.

Mr. Liddell flew to Pittsburgh to examine the collection. It *will take weeks to fully* appraise all the coins but he estimated that the collection will sell somewhere between $1.5m to $2m. The collection is not in fact on view to the public, nor have the coins themselves ever been counted. There they lay in a vault gathering dust.

However, when the Carnegie originally announced the disposal the numismatists of Pittsburgh were far from happy. Many heated remarks were bandied round the town, but, to no avail as the Carnegie had made up its mind.

Spink will be selling the coins both in New York, London and possibly Zurich. This is a wise move, as any decision to sell the American part of the collection outside of the U.S. would probably have evoked *more hot tempers.*

The American coins will be sold in New York by Spink in conjunction with Lester Merkin, a dealer of the old school. Spink do not have an auctioneers licence for New York so the combined sale with Merkin, considered to be the "grand old man" of American numismatics, neatly overcomes that particular problem. As the following for American coins is not as *strong* in Europe as the States itself, it also allows the company a chance to offer the material where it will attract the most attention and make the best price.

Of particular interest to our American cousins will be the American colonial issues or Hogge money. One Bermudan 3d is expected to realise upwards of $30,000.

However, *the collection is also* very rich in European coins, particularly rare crowns and multiple thalers. These coins, together with the coins of the ancient world, will be sold in London in September of this year. It is considered that the first sale will be a glittering affair attracting all the world's major dealers.

Mr. Liddell may choose to dispose of a few of the coins through their operations in Zurich. Spink opened their Swiss office in November 1978 when John-Paul Divo, a vice president of Bank Leau joined the Spink fold. Many of the minor pieces will be disposed of in bulk through other London auction houses.

The *disposal* of the Carnegie Collection coincides with the disposal of the Garrett collection of the John Hopkins University. This collection is expected to realise $18m. When Mr. *Liddell* was questioned as to how the market would react to two major collections appearing at the same time, he replied: "In my 30 years of association with Spink, satura*tion of the coin market has* never materialised." Indeed, it is generally found that when a major coin collection comes on to the market, the publicity it receives in the numismatic and non-numismatic press frequently acts as a stimulant to the converted and potential collector.

Reaction to Spink's success in acquiring the Carnegie business was mixed. In London, Mr. William French of Glendining & Co., said that they had never been in contact with Carnegie but that, "It was very nice to *know that an English firm had* got it." R. Suncroft-Baker, head of the coin department of Christies stated that Spink, "was a curious choice considering their inexperience in holding major auctions." Sothebys felt they could pass no comment as their negotiations with Carnegie "broke" down at an early date.

Norman Stack, of Stacks of New York City, stated that: "We are not unhappy to see as fine a numismatic firm and colleague as Spink get the job as they are well-respected in the industry and that while Stacks would have liked to obtain the collection we are glad that the Carnegie Museum chase as fine a firm as Spink."

Spink and Son entered the coin auction arena in October, 1978, with a £½m auction at Quaglino's. At that time, Patrick Finn, associate director of Spink, insisted that their aim was to become London's leading numismatic auctioneers. They are more than on their way to achieving that goal.

J. PEARSON ANDREW

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Home buyers are snapping up expensive mortgages from American banks, writes William Hall

For a few dollars more

HAVING DIFFICULTY getting a mortgage from the Halifax or the Abbey National? If so, a phone call to the UK finance subsidiary of a North American bank could solve your problems.

A handful of North American financial institutions are quietly moving into the UK residential mortgage market. The biggest by far is Citibank Trust, part of America's giant Citicorp, which started lending money for house purchase at the end of 1976. Although it is being rather coy about how much business it is doing it is understood to be in the region of £25m per annum. This might not sound much to the likes of the Halifax or the Abbey National but in terms of new lending Citibank Trust could rank among the top 20 UK building societies—on a par with the Skipton Building Society, for example.


Ranking in the Top 30

Over the last year, Citibank has been joined by Security Pacific Finance and Boston Trust and Savings. Both of them had been doing second mortgage business but realised that there was a growing demand for ordinary home loans especially for larger sums and for slightly unusual properties which the building societies may turn down.

Another institution which has spotted the potential and is lending £6m to £7m per annum for house purchase in the UK is the Royal Trust Company — the UK arm of Canada's largest trust company. In common with the U.S. banks, Royal Trust is very big in mortgage lending in North America but has only recently begun to flex its muscles in Britain.

These institutions do not advertise their activities partly because they do not want to upset the British authorities, who still cling to the idea that the more mortgage funds available, the higher house prices will go. They also fear that they might be swamped with applicants. Citibank Trust's lending more than doubled last year and Ron Basher, the managing director of Security Pacific Finance, reckons that if his company really marketed home loans it would get more business than it could handle.

MORTGAGE ALTERNATIVES

In each case, the interest rate is variable

	Size of loan £	Term (years)	Approximate interest rate %
Citibank Trust	5,000-50,000	20	18.6
	50,000-100,000*	20	15
Boston Trust	5,000-40,000	15	19
Security Pacific	25,000-100,000	15	15-16¼
Royal Trust	20,000-60,000	20	16¼
Building Societies	Rarely above £29,000	25	11¾ + loading of up to 2% for large loans

* Larger loans are sometimes available

For Security Pacific, at least, second mortgage business will remain its mainstay and it is limiting its exposure to the primary mortgage market. In common with the others, Mr. Basher denies that he intends to compete with the building societies. As his rates are at least four percentage points above the normal building society mortgage rate the average borrow wanting a £15,000 mortgage would be foolish to ask Security Pacific for a loan.

However, the combination of rapidly lengthening mortgage queues, rising house prices and the threat of a slowdown in the growth in building society savings inflows in 1979 is forcing more borrowers to look for alternative sources of funds. Building societies are currently restricted from lending more than 10 per cent of their advances for sums of over £20,000 and with house price inflation this limit will increasingly be a problem for potential borrowers. Above £25,000 some of the U.S. finance companies begin to look competitive.

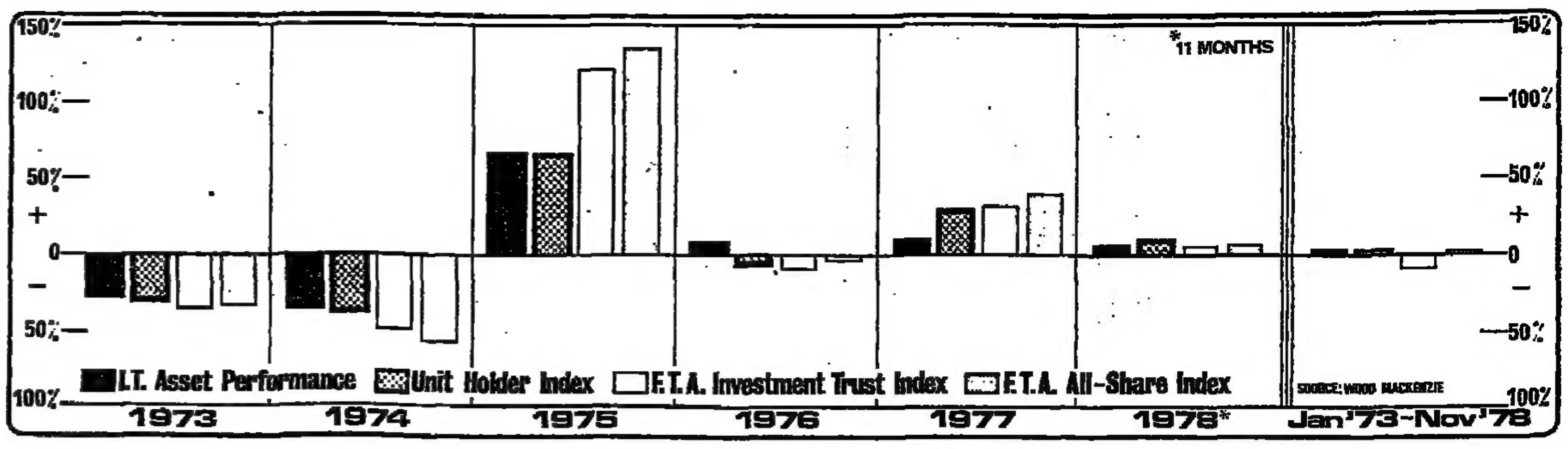
Whereas building societies, for reasons of social conscience, usually charge higher rates of interest for larger sums, Citibank Trust charges a lower rate since it argues that big loans are easier to administer.

Both Citibank Trust and Royal Trust have their own special mortgage rate which is linked to their cost of funds but tends to move only occasionally like the building society mortgage rate.

By contrast, Boston Trust and Savings links its lending to the Finance House base rate (set once a month) and Security Pacific links it to bank base rates.

Between them, the four North American institutions probably account for less than 1 per cent of the British mortgage market.

Over the next few years, however, it seems likely that the clearing banks will start challenging the building societies near monopoly of mortgage finance. After all anyone working in the U.S. will find the local branches of Barclays Bank or Lloyds Bank falling over themselves to offer long-term mortgages to hope buyers.



Investment trusts get the verdict

Opinion

WHICH ARE the better performers—investment trusts or unit trusts? Somebody at the weekend gave the answer: "Unit trusts—by a mile."

I do not agree. After a close look at the form book, I back investment trusts to win — by a short head. But a lot depends on where you site the starting stalls and the winning post.

After more than a century plodding round the course, the investment trust industry is still a remarkably game — if somewhat excitable — old nag. Judged by share price performance, it is a less reliable mount in bad going than the unit trust industry. But the unit trust industry wastes too much energy on passing investment fads and could do with a pair of blinkers to stop it being distracted by punters on the stands.

Probably the best test of the expertise of the investment trust industry is the performance of underlying assets, rather than investment trust share prices. The chart indicates that the asset performance of the investment trust industry has been better than the unit trust industry's in four of the past six years. The net result after a lot of thrills and spills on the way, has been a rise of only 3.7 per cent overall in the period. That, however, put the industry ahead of unit trusts and the market generally—the Unitholder Index showed a rise of just 3.0 per cent and the All-Share Index was up 2.0 per cent.

From the investor's viewpoint, the asset performance of investment trusts is not the whole story: the prices he buys and sells investment trust shares at usually stand below asset value and the discount can fluctuate alarmingly. In fact, because the discount has increased from less than 20 per cent to about 30 per cent over the past six years, the small rise in assets terms turned into a small loss — about seven per cent—in share price terms in the period. The size of the discount reflects largely irrational factors and the tendency for it to increase in recent years has been partly the result of the public's misguidedly dim view of the merits of investment trusts compared to unit trusts.

Usually the discount is at its widest when the stock market is low and its narrowest when the stock market is high. So for the same underlying asset performance, investment trusts fall more than unit trusts in bear markets and rise more in bull markets. In 1974, for instance, investment trust share prices plummeted 47.5 per cent compared to a fall of 35.6 per cent for unit trust holders and 33.9 per cent for investment trusts' underlying assets. Investment trust fans got their own back in 1975 when their shares soared by 120.8 per cent compared to a rise of 65.5 per cent for unit trusts and 66.1 per cent for investment trusts' underlying assets.

What confuses many investors is that in tables of top performers, investment trusts rarely show such spectacular gains as units. But this is mainly because investment trusts, free of the marketing considerations that plague unit trusts, run better-balanced portfolios—so there is bound to be less divergence between the best and worst performers. As it happens, last year's best-performing investment trust, GT Japan, which boasted a share price gain of about 70 per cent, did better than the best performing unit trust, also a GT fund.

The case for investment trusts now is:

- Their underlying investment performance is as good as unit trusts'.
- The discount could well narrow when the penny drops with the market that recent tax changes have given investment trusts more room to manage their money effectively. There is little scope for the discount to widen because takeover bidders would appear.
- With an average yield of 5.1 per cent before tax they have an income edge over unit trusts yielding 4.9 per cent.
- The cost of getting in and out is usually lower than the 7½ per cent spread of unit trusts.
- Institutional support has been stimulated by the increased weighting now given to investment trust shares in the All-Share Index. The weighting has been increased from 4.4 per cent of the index to 6.2 per cent so many fund managers who like to keep their performance in line with the index are expected to increase their holdings of investment trust shares proportionately.

EAMONN FINGLETON

Money Monitor

We're with the computer

Queues could soon be a thing of the past at the Woolwich building society's Bexleyheath branch. For on Monday it will become the first branch to link in with the society's new £4m computerisation scheme, which promises a dramatic cut in the time it takes to deal with investors at the counter.

The system will give counter assistants instant access to a central computer file of the accounts of the Woolwich's 1,250,000 savers. When an investor wants to withdraw some money, the assistant will be able to check immediately that his account is in funds. She simply has to key the details into a terminal by the counter and a printer will automatically up-date the investor's passbook.

Peter Beeke, the Woolwich's assistant general manager in charge of computerisation, reckons that the system will cut the average time taken for a routine transaction from about 90 to 60 seconds. Most Woolwich branches already have terminals—but they are in the back office, which means a time-consuming trip for counter assistants every time something needs checking.

The Woolwich is the first of the Big Five building societies to use counter terminals—but already a similar system is in use in some branches of the Britannia Building Society.

Taking stock

Blue chip shares were a better investment last year than gilts, cash or building societies, according to leading stockbrokers de Zoete and Bevan.

Their equity price index, plotting the movement of 30 blue chip shares, rose by 3.1 per cent last year, compared with a drop of 15.5 per cent for Consols, writes Eric Short. With income reinvested gross, holders of equities showed a total gain of 9.1 per cent, while holders of Consols lost 5 per cent. Treasury Bills, however, managed a gain of 8.1 per cent, reflecting high short-term interest rates.

If income is reinvested net of basic rate tax, the equity fund showed a gain of 7.1 per cent in 1978. This was just better than the average building society investment which showed a net return of 6.3 per cent to a basic rate taxpayer.

On the income front equities turned in a strong performance with an increase of 15.5 per cent in the face of continuing dividend restraint. Even so the reverse yield gap, the difference between the consols yield and the average equity dividend yield, widened during the year. Only one company out of the 30 in the index increased its dividend by much less than 10 per cent — Woolworth with a rise of only 4 per cent. By contrast, Beecham trebled its previous year's pay-out.

Measured against inflation, even holders of equities lost out. The equity fell by 4.9 per cent in real terms, while Consols shed 22.6 per cent.

It's a cert

The new 18th issue of National Savings Certificates, on sale from January 29, is even better than it looks. With a return of 8.45 per cent free of all tax over five years, it is, of course, a must for high rate taxpayers.

But standard rate taxpayers might be tempted to put their money instead in building society term shares, currently offering 9 per cent tax-paid over three or four years. The new certificates are probably a better bet because:

- The interest rate is guaranteed whereas investors in term shares get a rate which varies in line with the main building society savers rate.
- Savings certificates can be cashed in at any time. You will, of course, lose out on much of the interest but that is better than term shares, where, come hell or high water, your money is locked up for the full period.

You can buy up to £1,500 worth of the new issue in £10 units.

High rate taxpayers who still have not bought their full £3,000 allocation of the current 14th issue, yielding 7.59 tax-free over four years, should hurry: the offer will be suspended on January 27.

PROPERTY

A way to keep warm

BY JUNE FIELD

WHILE IT DOES NOT necessarily add to the figure you will get for your home by having double glazing, it could provide an advantage over similar property in the same price bracket whose windows are *without* this improvement.

"Double-glazing is increasingly being asked for, and could eventually become as important as whether there is a garage that goes with the property," some estate agents consider. With the cold weather conditions this winter they are finding that more and more people have suddenly become insulation-conscious. "Anything that helps cut-down heat-loss is a bonus well worth having."

Double-glazing isn't particularly new. As architect Martin Pawley pointed out in "Double-Glazing as an Element in Modern Architectural Design," in a leaflet put out by Alcan, a leading double-glazing manufacturer: "The double-glazed roof to the Camellia House built by Archduke John of Austria on his estates near Vienna in 1831, provided precisely the same advantages in terms of heat loss and fuel economy as the double-glazing units sold in tens of thousands today to house owners all over the world."

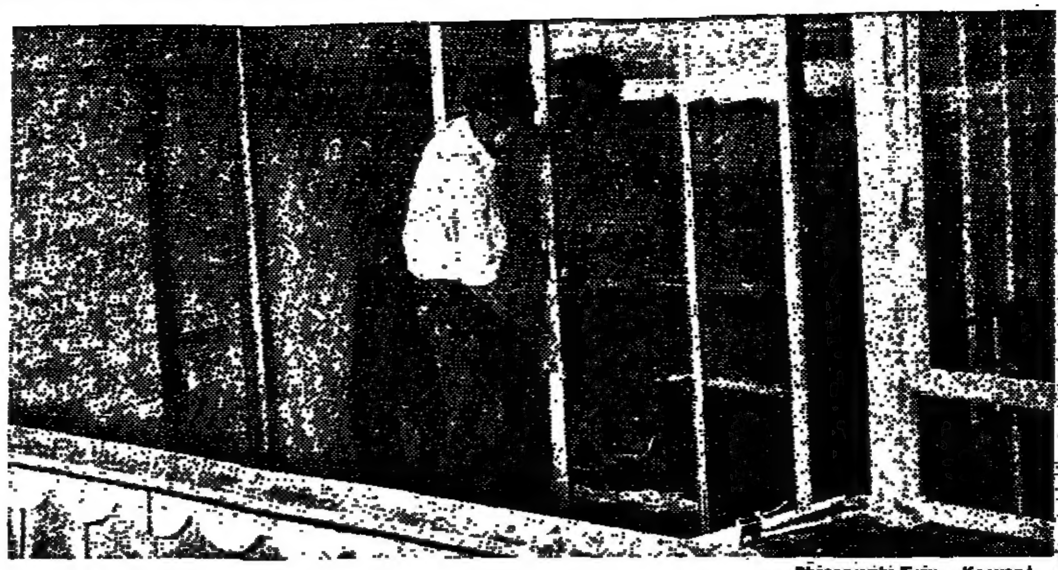
(The leaflet, which describes Alcan's testing through 17 winters in the Canadian Arctic, is available free from Peter Newman, Regional Sales Manager, Alcan Information Centre, 5 Portmore Park Road, *Weybridge, Surrey*.)

The sealed double glazing unit was the first major innovation to follow the introduction of double glazing itself. Before the first installation of *Deutsche Tafelglas* "Kudo" in German express trains in 1934, the efforts of architects had generally centred around the ventilation of the cavity between the two skins of dual-glazed windows as a means of preventing condensation from rendering them opaque. Le Corbusier himself devised a system for circulating heated air between two layers of glazing for the purpose of heating the building itself.

The Glass and Glazing Federation, an organisation set up to provide a central source of advice to architects, builders and property owners on the use of glass and glazing methods, told me that over the last few weeks their office has dealt with "an enormous amount of enquiries." Because of the varied categories of their members, who are manufacturers, suppliers or fabricators of flat, sheet, patterned, toughened, laminated and solar-control glass in addition to mirrors, and safety as well as insulation glazing, it is difficult to pin the association down to an increased figure for double glazing alone.

"Within the areas of glass and plastics usage covered, members claim a turnover exceeding £350m per annum," declares GGF director Bryan Hern, who will send a set of useful leaflets not only on the merits of double glazing, but one which draws attention to some of the unreasonable claims made in the past. There is also a useful booklet on condensation, the problems and how to reduce it. (Write or telephone GGF, 6 Mount Row, London, S.W.1. *01-629 8334*.)

Enquirers also receive a list of installers appropriate to their region, and it is suggested that prices are obtained from at least three members to get a comparison. Examples of existing work should be inspected too. "*Free-fitting*" offers should give some idea of the price quoted for labour, material, transport etc, so that you can see what you are saving.



Photograph: Trevor Kenyon)

Double glazing in Sussex. Alcan installers Dave and Martin fit Alcan's aluminium-framed double-glazed sliding patio doors in place of the old rusted windows taken out of a third-floor balcony room. The door and windows on the right have still to be replaced. Enquiries Peter Newman, Regional Sales Manager, Alcan Design Centre, 5 Portmore Park Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

You are not going to get instant installation of course. Even though companies are constantly seeking business, beguiling you with advertisements such as "Would you like to cut your heating bills, eliminate chilly draughts, reduce noise" and so on, most *firms can only quote a 12-16* weeks delivery date and then only from the time of signing the contract. (Which means your 20 per cent deposit is out for that length of time too.)

"But you can't really blame the installers for the delay," insists Mr. Hern. "They are in the hands of their suppliers, having to wait for the raw materials — glass, aluminium, wood, door locks and so on."

The components are needed for new homes too, as current Building Regulations insist on double glazing in new buildings where the ratio of window to wall exceeds a certain proportion. In Sweden triple-glazing is obligatory for all newly constructed windows, with 175mm (7 in) of insulation in the roof.

As one might imagine, shopping around for double glazing does take considerable time and effort. A colleague wanted double - glazed aluminium - framed sliding patio doors to replace old half-length rusted metal windows in a room with a balcony, a replacement double-glazed full-length glass door to another room, and framed replacement aluminium double sliding windows for a third room where the wooden lintels had rotted.

"For a while we became absolutely bogged down in such things as standard door configurations. Did we want two-, three- or four-panel units for the patio doors? How many sliding panels? Which side did we want them to slide? With the two-panel, the fixed panel could be either on the left or the right-hand side, or both panels could be sliding. With the three-panel units, two sliding panels could be considered with one central, fixed panel, or one sliding panel, which locks into the central position, could be combined with two fixed panels. The four-panel arrangement was different again. How many tracks? What kind of glass? Don't forget the ventilator outlets. Do you want a lock fixed? Which way should the single door open? And so on.

"The permutations of fixed and sliding units for the replacement double windows were a little less confusing, but did we want a softwood or hardwood sill? As all the units are tailor-made, you must say, and have documented, exactly what you want from the start. It is no good arguing who said what when the installers arrive, and the stores depot is over 100 miles away. Getting an actual written specification from the surveyor proved difficult, and as it transpired extra wood cladding had to be added outside to one lintel before the job could be completed. But it was done —the secret is not to sign the satisfaction note until you are completely satisfied. Otherwise with the best will in the world there could be problems getting the workers back.

"We were the first property in our area that the company had worked on. When our neighbours had an almost identical job done, the installers knew in advance more or less what problems could arise. Needless to say, in spite of the few set-backs, the whole operation was a tremendous success, and we were inordinately pleased with the transformation a few sheets of glass had wrought. Everything was completed in two days, and there was only a slight tear in the wallpaper to show that large areas of glass, wood, old metal and frame had been virtually wrenched out of their sockets before replacement could begin."

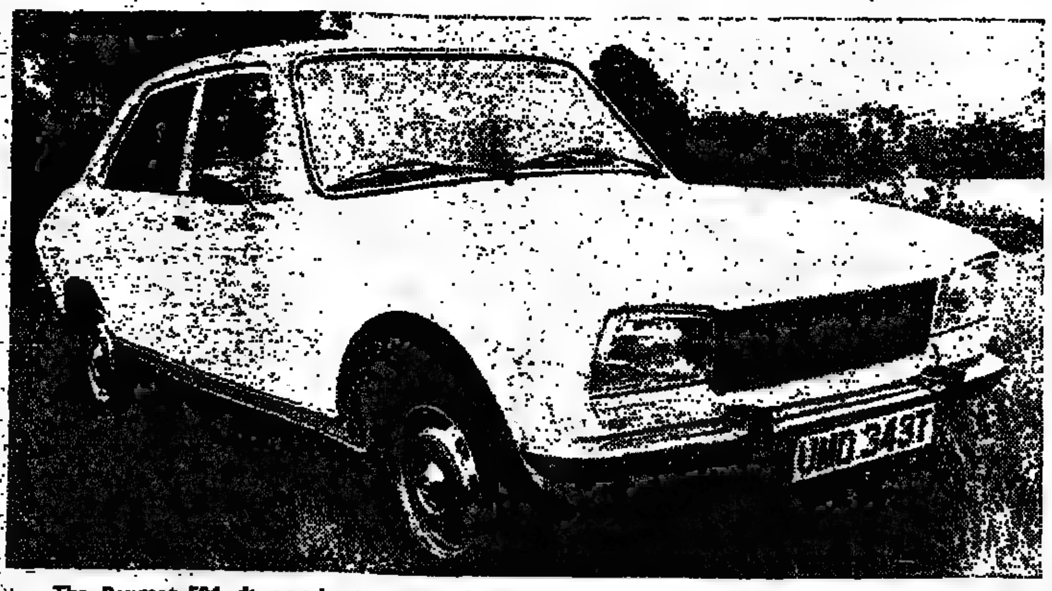
Total cost? Between £1,250 and £1,500

This unusual marine house which has direct river frontage of the Hamble was designed and built especially for this site for the present vendor. It has the benefit of a channel adjacent to the boundary so that a small boat can be brought close to the edge of the lawn. There are superb views over a large stretch of river. The accommodation consists of Principal Bedroom with bathroom en suite; Guest Bedroom; 4 other Bedrooms, second bathroom and cloakroom; extensive reception areas. Easily maintained formal garden with adjoining settings of about two thirds of an acre. Price £110,000 freehold: Agents Fox & Sons, 30-34 London Road, Southampton.

MOTORING

Mixing age and comfort

BY STUART MARSHALL



The Peugeot 504. It may be ten years old, but you get a limousine ride for less than £4,000

PEUGEOT really must be the despair of other manufacturers who have not found the secret of making a car with an old-fashioned back axle ride so comfortably.

The basic 504 saloon is 10 years old. It has independent front suspension but the same non-independent rear axle as the 504 estate car. And yet its ride is in a class of its own. The steel belted radial tyres roll softly and almost silently over all kinds of road, with a minimum of thumping on cat's eyes and expansion joints.

Patched and broken lanes are made to feel like motorways; and on motorways the £3,985 Peugeot rides better than some cars costing nearly twice as much. How do Peugeot make their cheapest 504 feel like a limousine? I can only put it down to their long experience in "tuning" the suspension of a conventionally laid out car to suit steel belted radial tyres. They started doing so nearly 25 years ago with the 403 and Michelin's original "X," when (Citroen excepted) all other cars ran on crossply tyres.

The fact that Peugeot insists on making its own shock absorbers may have something to do with it, too. What it adds up to is a ride in the Jaguar class at not much more than Ford Cortina/Morris Marina prices.

The comparison with Cortinas and Marinas is relevant because the Peugeot's price—and its 1,796 cc engine which lets it squeeze into the under 1.8 litre company car tax brackets—should make it attractive to fleet buyers as well as family motorists.

A successor to the 504 has been rumoured for some time. It seems possible that when it does appear, it will at first replace the up-market models of the 504—the all-independently suspended GL and TI saloons—and that the basic 504 saloon and the estates will carry on for some time.

Recently, the basic 504 was revamped and it was relaunched on the UK market at the last Motor Show. The car I drove had plumply upholstered cloth seats with lounging room for four and adequate space for five. The boot, despite its high sill, is not difficult to load and accommodates a family's holiday luggage.

Instrumentation is simple but easily read. Peugeot's traditional lights switch still sprouts from the steering column; the heated rear window and hazard warning buttons are faintly illuminated at night, just as they are in the Porsche 929. Quaintly, the choke control is in the middle of the fascia.

Performance is entirely adequate. Top speed is 96 mph and at a 70-75 mph cruising rate the Peugeot was quiet enough for the optional extra radio/tape player (a Blaupunkt with excellent FM reception in my test car) to be enjoyed.

The gearshift is light and third is good for a useful 60-65 mph for overtaking. Fuel consumption is modest for a roomy five-seater with a 30-31 miles per gallon of two star easily obtained on a journey. Light steering and a good view through the back window make the 504 easy to park.

It is a totally competent and relaxing car to drive, with full équipment (servo brakes, clock, reclining front seats and rear seat armrest are all standard) and 10,000-mile major servicing intervals. The styling is hardly fashionable after 10 years but does this matter when rear passengers can sit upright without their heads touching the roof? I can't see people who appreciate Peugeot ride quality and refinement being put off the 504 because it isn't the automotive equivalent of a dolly bird any more.

An automatic version of the 504 is available for £4,474 and the 1,796 cc engined estate car costs £4,368. Diesel versions, powered by much the same 2.1 litre engine that Ford buy from Peugeot for the Granada, are £4,550 for the manual saloon, £4,933 for the estate.

Frozen points

OUR arctic weather seems to persist, and thousands of car owners are still counting the cost of radiators that burst or cylinder blocks that cracked because they had not checked their anti-freeze. It really is the falsest of all motoring economies. A couple of pounds' worth of glycol-based anti-freeze prevents damage that may cost 100 times as much to put right.

The cold weather returned just as suddenly as it went. Any motorist unsure whether his car's cooling system is adequately protected should play safe. If in doubt, top up with more anti-freeze. Your garage will tell you how much and, just as importantly, if any of the hoses and hose clips need renewing.

I wish I could find a screenwash anti-freeze that works as effectively as the kind you put in the radiator.

Tales of defeat

FISHING

JOHN CHERRINGTON

A CANDID FRIEND who professes to follow this column complains that I approach the sport in a defeatist spirit, whatever that may mean. It is quite true that I seldom describe a thrilling fight to the finish, nor do I embark on a blow-by-blow description of how I just managed to reach that monster trout under the bridge where it had dwelt unharmed for several seasons. Probably because it had sensibly satisfied his hunger by devouring his young relations which is the real sustenance of monster trout.

In fact when catching monsters under bridges I am not sure that even the keenest dry-fly man can always say with his hand on his heart that it, the monster, fell victim to a fly which in some miraculous manner had been cast upstream of it to float down like a piece of thistledown or artificial iron blue or whatever.

My experience of underbridge monsters is that they are probably better out of the river, being cannibals, but that the average bridge construction on chalk streams leaves no room for upstream casting at all under the footway. The alternative operation is either to cast over the bridge and let the fly float down with the current or, with one eye on the keeper and the adjoining rods, cast from upstream and allow the fly to drift down to the fish.

This is not as easy as it sounds. The line lies on the bridgework and this makes for drag if the cast is over the bridge. In fact I would rate the chances of a dragless passage beneath the bridge as being very low. Even if the fly does float well and is taken by the fish there is every possibility that the fish when it feels the hook will take off downstream and this will certainly foul the line and could very well cause a break as there would be no rod to ease the strain.

If on the other hand you float a fly beneath the bridge from upstream, it is possible by keeping the line slack to avoid drag, and if you should happen to hook the fish it can be played upstream. Or as sometimes happens it does run downstream you can, by giving it plenty of slack, pass the rod under the bridge always provided you are agile enough, an play it out in the slack water below. But this is all by the way.

If as my friend suggests I lack the positive approach it is only because I don't like a third method of catching under bridge monsters which is to use a sunken nymph or a wet fly bait almost indistinguishable from small fish in certain current catch fish in the most obvious possible way.

Of course my friend may be approximately correct. When I set out for a day's fishing I can truthfully say that I am not particularly worried by the thought that my day may end in an empty bag. With salmon fishing that is almost invariably the case. To paraphrase a famous saying it is better to fish with little hope than not to fish at all, and any fish which is foolish enough to allow itself to be caught probably deserves its fate.

In any case think of the awful anticlimax if, after spending vast sums (in advance) on the better rivers and the costs of getting there you should find that the river in your week is either empty of fish or water or both or even if there are fish they are far from being on the take.

I have known people in this state verge on the suicidal, simply because they started the week with a determination to get their money's worth. They adopted this positive approach much as did those who embarked on the Charge of the Light Brigade with an almost certain knowledge of the odds against them but refusing to look the facts fully in the face.

How much better for peace of mind is the Cherrington defeatest attitude which embarks on fishing with an almost complete lack of expectation only to be most pleasantly surprised when the fish prove, as they sometimes do, to be co-operative. And I shall be making a start on the Wye all being well on February 1st and subsequent Thursdays and that as always I shall enjoy the excursion, whatever my state of mind.

GOLF

Growing old gracefully and winning friends

BEN WRIGHT

IT CAME as a tremendous shock a month ago in Mexico City when one of Jack Nicklaus' playing rivals—far more importantly, one of his closest friends, and almost certainly his most fervent admirer—launched a vehement verbal attack on the great man as we sat down over a cold beer with a British friend and old writing colleague of mine in our hotel. The professional golfer in question was incensed at Nicklaus's recent conduct when playing in three distinguished tournaments and failing—for no good reason the gentleman could discover — to play in another to which he had pledged his support. In a nutshell, Nicklaus stood accused of demeaning his brother professionals and rivals, but perhaps more importantly, his own peerless reputation.

The whole question of growing old gracefully in sport and knowing when to retire came up for discussion, and I found myself respecting, albeit grudgingly, if not actually agreeing with, the plaintiff's case. Or at least with some of the points he was making.

The giants

Of the game's giants in the post-war era, Byron Nelson retired because his nervous stomach literally forced him out of competition for the sake of his health. Ben Hogan disappeared immediately he thought his waning standard of play—a personal decision, not that of the public or his hero-worshipping rivals—no longer allowed him to compete with the sufficient dignity and self-respect such a perfectionist naturally demanded of himself. Sam Snead continued to play because he was fully capable of competing with the best and needed an alternative to his beloved fishing to keep him occupied in his old age. And what transports of delight he has afforded those hundreds of thousands who have been privileged to admire the timeless majesty of his golf swing. Far from incidentally, what great hope he has also given to countless geriatric hackers as he fast approaches his 67th birthday in May.

Others have gradually, and in some cases suddenly, faded way. Several have outstayed their welcomes like any old pathetic prize-fighter. But as Nicklaus, who will be 39 a week on Sunday, Arnold Palmer, who reaches his half-century in September and Gary Player, who will be 43 years young in November, come to the hopefully long twilight of their distinguished careers we are witnessing the end of perhaps golf's most glorious era.

But back to the complaints about Nicklaus. For months he threatened not to play in the World Series of Golf as the result of a well-known difference of opinion with U.S. PGA tour commissioner Deane Beman. Eventually Nicklaus turned up, and starting times were juggled to allow him to fly away in his private jet on Friday afternoon to watch his two eldest sons playing football in Florida, returning late the same evening. Nicklaus, going through the motions, duly finished 7th over a Firestone South course on which he had previously won more than half a million dollars.

Next Nicklaus flew in for the inaugural European Open at Walton Heath, but only for a Press conference. As one cynic remarked at the time: "He won't deign to play, but at least we get to talk to God." Many present, and I include several distinguished professionals, felt Jack would have been better advised to have stayed away.

Then there was the celebrated tennis game at promoter Kerry Packer's house in Sydney after the first round of the Australian Open championship when Nicklaus played in street shoes, fell and hurt his shoulder, and was almost forced to withdraw. That he created a new course record of 66 the following day while heavily drugged with butazolidin, is history. But to even imagine Packer's reaction had his house guest been forced to retire from the event hardly bears thinking about.

The last straw as far as my plaintiff was concerned blew in when Nicklaus declined to fly in for the Mexico Cup Pro-Am, remaining in Florida to watch his two sons go through their final workout before their big school game. Then Nicklaus flew from Mexico City to Tallahassee and back in one evening during the tournament, and again pairings were adjusted to suit his flight plan. Without time for a practice round, Nicklaus finished in a tie for 26th place in a field of 45 professionals and eight amateurs 20 strokes behind winner David Graham.

Misguided

Not so long ago I was misguided enough to suggest that Palmer should retire, and thankfully I have learned the error of my ways. So many people derive pleasure from watching Palmer compete—despite the fact that it is exactly six years since he won a tournament in America—that it will be a time for international mourning when he finally hangs up his brogues.

But the difference between Palmer and Nicklaus is that the former doesn't know how to go through the motions. Arnold only knows how to play like hell every time he tees it up, and loves nothing in the world half as much as the chance to do so at every possible opportunity. Player is just the same if not more so except that in his horses—both in breeding and racing—he has found an outlet for his energies away from golf's competitive arena. Nothing is more certain than that Gary will convince himself he has a chance of winning long after that feat is well beyond the realms of possibility. The fantastic thing about the little South African is that he is sure then to triumph over all the odds and be able to thumb his nose at those who have previously urged him to retire. I shall not be among that number.

Poor Nicklaus just wants to be a normal family man but nowadays few public heroes are allowed such luxuries. I just hope Jack doesn't alienate his hard-won allegiance of admirers by going through the motions too often too obviously, as he appears to be doing in Palm Springs, California, this weekend. But I know he is far too intelligent to do such a stupid thing—if only because he so much dislikes playing golf for fun.

MOTOR CARS

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TRAVEL

Away from the Costas

BY SYLVIE NICKELS

DESPITE THE odd hiccup in industrial relations and price increases reflecting inflation and rather necessary wage rises, Spain remains firmly at the tourist "top of the pops." In the programmes of many of the large tour operators, Spanish resorts continue to dominate the destination lists. For example, Vingresor, the latest of the Scandinavian direct-sell operators to arrive on our shores, devotes about two-thirds of its programme to Spanish mainland and island centres. Vingresor (Swedish) follows in the wake of Tjaereborg (Danish) who moved into Britain a year ago. With peak season prices starting around £150 for two weeks with full board, good reductions for children and various special services, the Swedish newcomers will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Neither they nor their competitors, however, are likely to add perceptibly to any crowding of the great expanses of inland Spain which, apart from a few pockets of historical, cultural or religious fame, remain astonishingly little known.

This is where the special-interest companies come into their own. Whether you have a leaning towards human or natural history, or towards practising some skill of your own, the choice is considerable in settings far from the "urbanisation" signs that litter too much of coastal Spain.

It is some years now since I first stumbled quite by chance upon the village of Berdun, perched upon its mound in the foothills of the Pyrenees not far from Jaca. The village itself is quaint, the surroundings ranging from the magnificent to the bizarre, an ideal place for those with artistic leanings, so that it was only the remoteness of it that made the presence there of an English-run painting school rather astonishing. Featured in Cox and Kings special interest tours, Berdun has also proved an excellent centre for bird watchers and botanists. A two-week tour here, with specialist leader, is in the £200-£250 range, plus excursions. Over on the Costa Brava, one of Galleon's long-established painting holidays is based on Cadaques.

Cox and Kings also offer ornithological/botanical tours to an old-established favourite for those in the know: Puerto de Pollensa in the north of Majorca, and this year they introduce a new birdwatching tour, featuring three centres in Andalucia. Heritage Travel, too, have chosen Puerto de Pollensa as a base for their Majorcan ornithological forays under expert leadership in April (£267, 10 nights). Among this company's other specialities are some of Europe's most famous music festivals, including the Festival of Music and Dance in Granada.

Performances are held in the Palace of Carlos V and the beautiful gardens of the Generalife in the balmy late evenings of early summer. Departure is on June 25, and the cost of £362 for seven nights includes half board, a classical Flamenco show and four festival tickets.

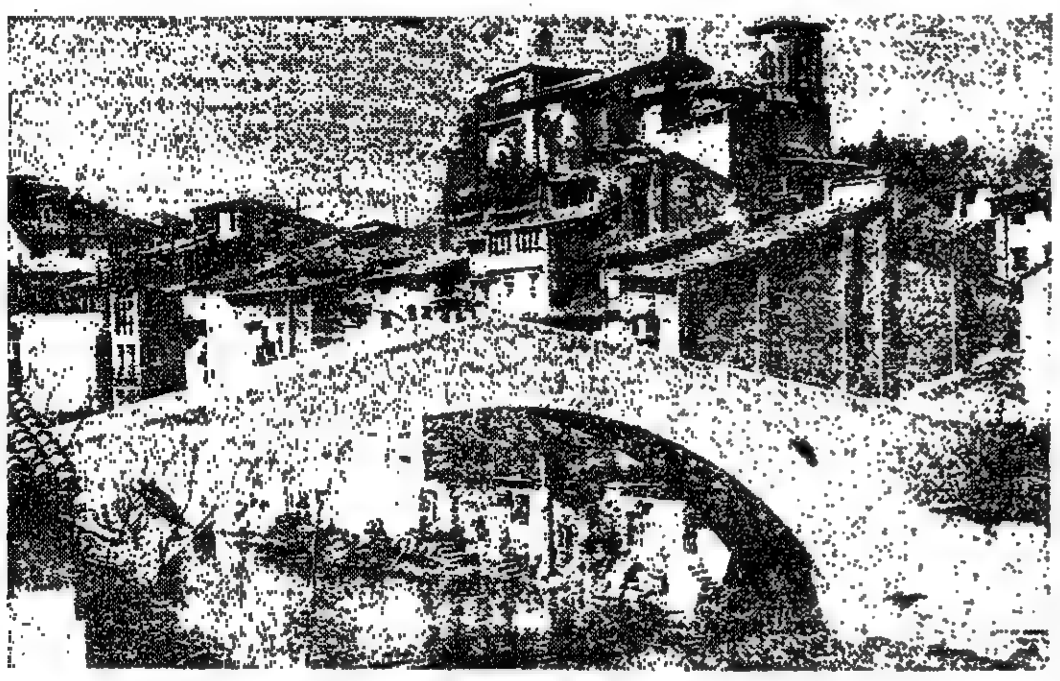
From the point of view of cultural interest and scenic variety, Swan Hellenic's 15-day art treasure tour of Leon and Castile looks like a winner. Though it includes such hallowed tourist spots as Toledo, Segovia, Avila, not to mention Madrid, much of the itinerary is through some unusual expanses of northern Spain with leisurely visits to three cities whose acquaintance I was delighted to make a couple of years ago: Burgos, Leon and especially Salamanca. The two nights in Leon, incidentally, would be memorable if only for the accommodation in the sumptuous Hotel San Marcos, one of the most gracious of Europe's hostelries. This tour has three departures in May and September which, in full accordance with Swan Hellenic tradition, are accompanied by guest experts in their field; cost of £528 covers all travel, full board and gratuities throughout.

The most strenuous, though not excessively so, is based at Sallent in a grandiose Pyrenean setting; cost for two weeks is £315 with full board in an excellent hotel and several departures throughout summer. Rather less demanding in energy are the May and June arrangements in the Sierra de Gredos, west of Madrid (£176 for 11 nights but much simpler accommodation) and the May and September departures to delightful Ronda twinned with the village of Ubrique in Andalucia (£266 for two weeks).

Aventura, too, lead you into wild country, but in this case on horseback. I have heard excellent reports of this specialist operation which combines two weeks of riding along ancient trails through the Sierra Nevada with overnight stops in typical local inns still catering for the needs of mounted travellers and their steeds. Some riding experience is preferable; truly all-in costs are £365 with regular departures from March to November.

Or you may prefer the complete freedom of four wheels, the open road and vast tracts of little-known Spain to get delightfully lost in. Long-established specialists in fly-drive holidays are Lane's Travel Service, who have a wide choice of pick up and free drop-off points for vehicles, and a lot of sound advice to offer based on 20 years' experience.

Addresses: Vingresor, 48 Cheapside, London EC2V 6AT; Tjaereborg, 7-8 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TG; Cox and Kings, 46 Marshall St., London W1V 2PA; Galleon, Galleon House, King St., Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EG; Heritage Travel, 22 Hans Place, London SW1X 0EP; Swan Hellenic, 237-238 Tottenham Court Rd., London W1P 0AL; Ramblers, 13 Longcroft House, Fretherne Rd., Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 6PQ; Aventura, "Hayban," Thursley, Godalming, Surrey; Lane's Travel Service, 251 Brompton Rd., London SW3 2EY.



Navarra

Currency affairs

WE LOOK set for a period of uncertain currency values again. Sterling wobbled a little towards the end of the week and the value of the dollar may depend very much on stability in Iran. This presents problems for the holidaymaker, but don't be over eager to rush out of pounds into something else for your holiday money. Buying, say, Swiss francs for a holiday in Spain or the U.S. is an expensive business involving double commissions (you pay to convert to francs and then again into the local currency). Decide first whether the potential gain, mostly peace of mind, justifies the cost.

Your weekend £: Austria 36.60, Belgium 58.50, France 8.38, Italy 1,658, Greece 82.00, Spain 141.25, Switzerland 3.33, U.S. 1.9850. Source: Thomas Cook.

Heavy falls of snow in some parts of Europe and Scotland have introduced British skiers to something they rarely meet—deep snow skiing. Some may be finding it is not as easy as it looks.

Learning to live with powder

WINTER SPORTS
ARTHUR SANDLES

THE REALLY heavy European snowfalls this year so far has been concentrated on the north western side of the Alps in Europe. Thus, while Austria has been struggling a bit through lack of decent cover, parts of France and Switzerland have done quite well. Even the north western tip of Italy has produced some very good ski conditions of late.

It is this stretch of mountains, from Geneva down to the coast, that has seen the most ski activity in recent years. New resorts have sprung up and older ones have expanded. France, never regarded as much of a ski destination by the British, is now a highly popular place to go. The jet-set slopes of the Trios Vallees and the more populist runs of Flaine both echo with the cries of "*Oops, Sorry!*" as we Britons tumble our way down the mountains.

This year the occasional heavy snow fall has meant that many skiers have had to adjust to conditions which the recreational skier traditionally dislikes—deep new snow. Few holiday skiers know how to handle unpacked snow and few really want to know. The first experiments with it are likely to be disastrous. All those turns which felt so good on the piste now seem not to work. And when you fall and lose a ski . . . well getting it back on can be a finger freezing problem.

Most expert skiers will tell you that deep snow skiing is easy, *easier perhaps and more enjoyable* certainly than piste skiing. Well, if you are a competent and relaxed skier it might be, but for the rest of us, recreational skiers who get to the slopes only briefly each year and are probably out of condition anyway, off-piste skiing needs concentration.

The basic problem for the recreational skier is that when they feel insecure in any way they tend to brake, and usually do that by digging hard with the heel of the downhill ski. This system works well on hard-pack, even if it does not look particularly pretty, but in powder it is a road to disaster. Heavy pressure on one end of a ski in such conditions will whip you into an irrevocable turn so that you are almost certainly unbalanced and forced into an often uncomfortable forward fall.

When venturing into deep snow for the first time, therefore, look for a broad area which will give you lots of time to think and, if you make a mistake, recover, before trying again. The steepness of the slope is less of a problem than with hard pack. A steepish slope can actually help, particularly if the snow is *very deep. In the early stages* avoid mogul fields with a new cover of deep snow. The beginner on powder cannot turn quickly enough to handle them.

The essence of powder skiing lies in keeping the weight evenly balanced on both skis, and in keeping your ski tips up. You'll soon know if you are not weighting the skis evenly, and steering by edges rather than weight—your legs start going in different directions. Skilled skiers, because they normally ski with much more even weight distribution than an intermediate, are sometimes unsympathetic with a recreational holidaymaker's first attempts. So don't let either ski instructor or companion bully you. Keeping the weight back means the whole weight, not just the rear portion. Sticking your bum over the ski heels and your nose over the tips will only send you head first into the nearest drift.

Any skier who is beginning to emerge from stem christies and do a little bit of parallel on the easy bits is ready for a try at powder. The trouble is, powder is addictive.

Once you have learned to enjoy off-piste downhill skiing you will search for it all the time. The problems with this is that many other skiers want to find new snow too, and you will often find yourself in competition with a crowd wanting to get to the snow fields first, before a morning of skiing turns the mountain side into a sea of tracks. Apart from early rising the additional difficulty is health. Most good off-piste skiing involves a bit of walking. Good deep snow is, almost by definition, away from the runs and sometimes you may have a slight climb uphill before finding the right conditions. This can be exhausting, particularly as good powder is usually well above 2,000 metres and thus the air is getting a bit thin. My first bout of altitude sickness came a few years ago in a 13,000 ft hunt for powder.

The other danger is, of course, avalanche. Some resorts have off-piste areas recognised as *safe, some don't.* Take the advice of the ski-school or ski patrol before leaving the piste. And never ski alone off-piste.

But back to the weather. It is yo-yo conditions in most of the world's ski areas. The French may be having ski fun but the Tyrol is still hoping for some of the snow that is falling on a Britain that doesn't want it. In the U.S. the temperatures both in the east and west continue to bob up and down—although it is still well below freezing in most areas.

SNOW REPORTS

EUROPE		
Flaine (Fr.)	50-190 cm	Upper slopes windblown.
Isola (Fr.)	130-170 cm	New snow on good base.
Val d'Isere (Fr.)	110-165 cm	New snow on good base.
Davos (Sw.)	30- 60 cm	Powder on hard base.
Saas Fee (Sw.)	60-120 cm	New snow on good base.
Wengen (Sw.)	*18- 40 cm*	*Much more snow needed.*
Bormio (It.)	30- 80 cm	Good skiing above 2,000 metres.
Seefeld (Aus.)	20- 50 cm	Some slopes rocky and worn.
Reports supplied by Ski Club of Great Britain representatives.		
THE U.S.		
Sugarbush (Vt.)	10-20 ins	67 of 70 runs open.
Stowe (Vt.)	6-24 ins	28 of 29 runs open.
Hunter (NY)	31-50 ins	M/c. snow added. 31 of 35 open.
Park City (Utah)	36-47 ins	New wet snow. More expected.
Aspen (Col.)	27-75 ins	New snow, still falling.
Squaw Valley (Calif.)	23-50 ins	Rain and high winds.

Figures indicate basic snow depths at top and bottom stations.

Last night there were reports of heavy falls of new snow throughout the Alpas, including Austria. All Scottish resorts report good conditions.

Shrubs for those confined spaces

GARDENING
ARTHUR HELLYER

THE JAPANESE invented the art of miniaturising trees and called it bonsai. It is a fasincating technique involving considerable skill and great patience and by its means even large forest trees can be reduced to pygmy size without losing any of their distinctive character. But bonsai is mainly an indoor art for it involves restricting roots within containers and strictly controlling all growth promoting *things such as food* and moisture, so that a perfect balance is preserved even in a plant that is not permitted to exceed one fiftieth of its natural height. It is not a method of restricting the size of plants actually growing in the garden. Yet that is a pressing need today as gardens get progressively smaller.

It is possible to have tiny trees and shrubs, even in the most restricted places by selecting kinds that are either naturally small or have acquired a reduction in size by natural causes. Some, such as sweet scented *Daphne cneorum* and golden *Genista lydia*, have been programmed from the outset to remain small because this proved to be favourable to them in the particular environments in which they developed. Others have acquired dwarfness by what we know as sporting or mutation, a spontaneous change in some of the genes which control growth of all other characteristics. They are really among nature's freaks which in the wild would soon succumb if their lack of stature proved detrimental as it most likely would. In gardens such dwarfs can be seized upon and preserved in surroundings suitable for their small size and lack of competitiveness.

To these must be added a third class much stranger than the others and perhaps not yet fully understood. These are dwarf mutants, mainly of conifers, which appear on normal trees or shrubs as those odd outgrowths we call witches' brooms. They seem to be caused by a local interference with normal cell division brought about by insects or fungi, similar agents to those that cause galls on *many plants.* What is peculiar about some of them is that, when cuttings or scions for grafting are taken from the witches' broom, they grow into plants of similar character, that is plants that are much more freely branched and have thinner stems and slower growth than normal and that this change is permanent and passed on to other plants raised vegetatively from them. Many popular dwarf conifers have arisen in this way and though at first they were mainly prized by alphine plant enthusiasts as a means of furnishing their rock gardens with little trees and shrubs they have now captured the imagination of a much larger audience and are being *widely used in minipinetums* and or with other small plants suitable for the scale of modern gardens.

It all makes sense in the restricted conditions in which many of us have to garden, some with no more than a few meagre square yards of ground or maybe only a few containers or window boxes. Anyone seeking guidance on such matters could not do better than obtain a book which was published a few months ago by Barrie and Jenkins of Highbury Crescent, London, price £4.25. Its title is "Miniature Shrubs" and it was written, and I suspect largely illustrated for he is a skilful photographer, by Royton E. Heath who many years ago prepared what is still my "bible" on choice rock plants, "Collectors' Alpines."

Mr. Heath has been growing rock plants as an enthusiastic amateur most of his life and he has spent quite a lot of time studying and collecting them in the wild. Shrubs are not, I think, either his first or major love but he has needed to use dwarf kinds in his rock gardens and has come to appreciate their much greater significance in the economic conditions in which we now live. He does every*thing thoroughly and "Miniature Shrubs"* is no exception: indeed my only small criticism is that in some respects he seems to have been a little too thorough. It is always difficult to draw the line between shrubs and herbaceous plants since these are man-made classifications which nature does not attempt to keep. So each of us must make up his or her own dividing line and Mr. Heath seems to have set his well towards the herbaceous side. I doubt whether most of his readers will regard the Gold Dust, *Alysum saxatile*, still less lovely but difficult *Shortia galacifolia* as shrubs and even Mr. Heath describes the shortias as "perennial herbs" which seems to undermine their title for inclusion.

There is also a difficulty in defining "miniature" when applied to shrubs. One could argue that it means small in every respect but Mr. Heath seems to lean towards the wider definition "short." This would account for his inclusion of *Mahonia repens*, an excellent holly leaved evergreen with golden flowers in spring, which is certainly unlikely greatly to exceed a foot in height but, because it creeps by prostarte stems which root as they go, can slowly take over a considerable area of ground. The same applies to *Salix herbecea*, a delightful little willow which will produce silken catkins along its ground hugging stems just like any common pussy willow and yet is quite suitable for a rock garden provided there is room for it to spread. Here logic deserts me for I would have included the willow but excluded the mahonia but can think of no rational explanation for this verdict. My sympathy goes out to Mr. Heath and it is undoubtedly better to be too catholic than too narrow in making decisions such as this. Undoubtedly this is the most comprehensive book on small shrubs that has ever been produced.

It is also more than a descriptive list or encyclopaedia. There is a lot of useful general information on making gardens *for small shrubs*, propagating them at home, transplanting them, pruning them and keeping them free of pests and diseases, not that they suffer greatly from these.

One useful tip on the management of cuttings is to water them once a fortnight with a weak solution of permanganate of potash in place of clear water. Mr. Heath uses one teaspoonful of the chemical to each gallon of water and claims that this checks the growkth of moss, always a nuisance in the moist conditions of a propagating frame, and also acts as a mild stimulus, a suggestion that is new to me. Knowing how good he is with plants I shall certainly give this treatment a trial.

HOTEL Advertising Appears Today On Page 10

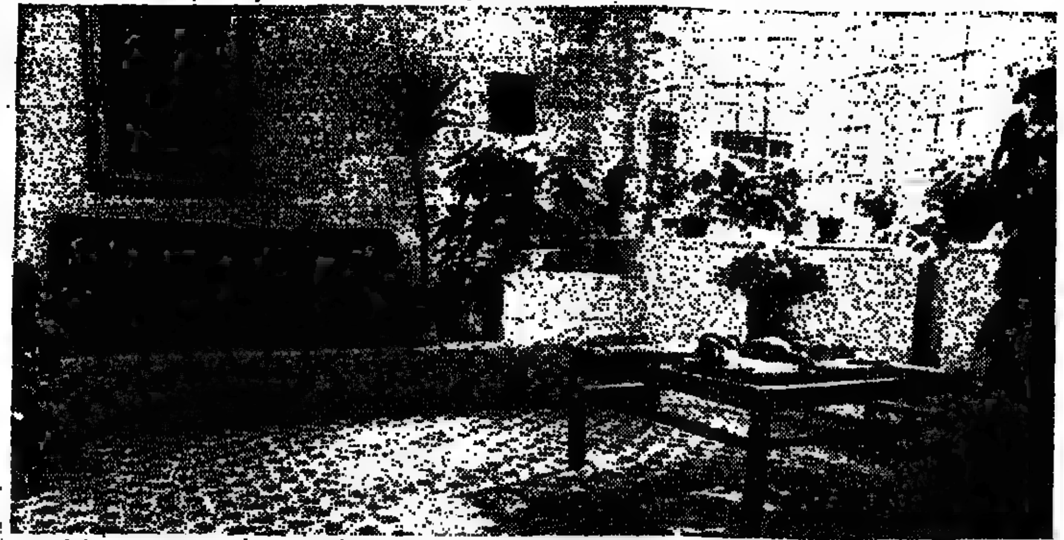
HOW TO SPEND IT

by Lucia van der Post

New designs at your feet

I FIND that it is in the winter, when I spend more time in the house, that I look at it with a more critical eye. In the summer my thoughts turn to the garden and all its inadequacies but in the dark months leading up to the spring I like to make indoors a happier, more comfortable, more interesting place. So it seems a good moment to look at some of the new things that are happening in the interior design world.

One especially interesting area of development is the blossoming of really good carpet design and this is what I have turned my attention to this week.



A version of Mary Quant's familiar daisy is used in this 100 per cent Dralon Axminster carpet. It comes in two colourways: cream (as here) with light brown flower and pale blue leaves, or brown, with blue flower and tan leaves.

I'M not a great lover of patterned carpets myself since I feel that a plain floor provides a much better background to most of the paraphernalia that a true home collects. However, Mary Quant has produced some of the first commercial designs that are almost enough to make me change my mind (the other carpets on this page are, of course, much more exclusive—Mary Quant's range for Templeton Carpets, for instance, costs about £10 per sq yard).

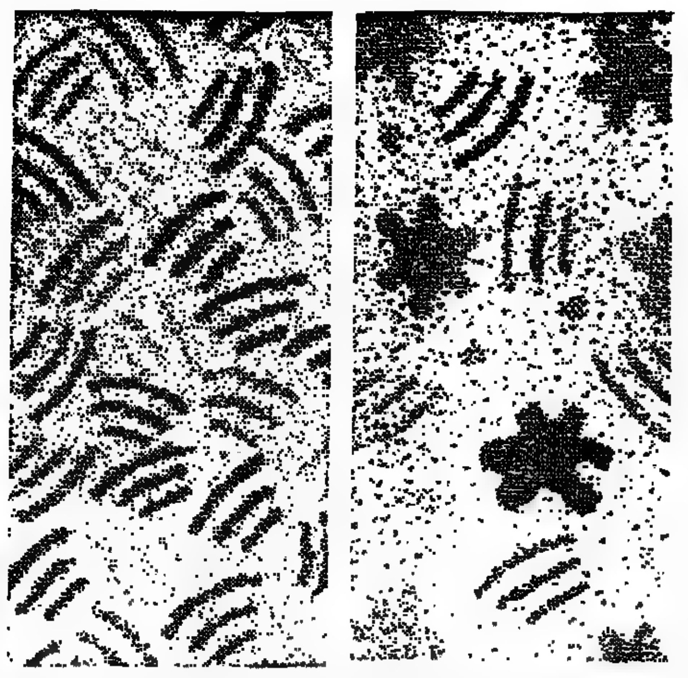
There seems almost nothing Mary Quant cannot turn her design skills to if she really puts her mind to it. Here her brief was to produce a carpet design that was fun but did fulfil a genuine consumer demand—in other words it had to be reasonably priced (which, ladies and gentlemen, now means about £10 per square yard) and to be practical, hard-wearing and easy to clean.

Patterned carpets make sense for daily use. As Mary Quant herself says, "When I thought about living with carpets—the Coke spilt on the floor, the dog bringing in the bone—" she realised she had to consider the practical side very carefully.

The problem with patterned carpets is that they can completely dominate a room. Mary Quant wanted a design "which can live with you." I think she has succeeded. Naturally, I don't like them all equally, but on the whole I think they are an excellent contribution to the carpet scene and I foresee many of the patterns being the answer to a great many family's problems.

The range has some florals, some geometrics, a particularly nice almost liquorice-like arrangement of coloured squares—there should be something for most people.

The carpets go on sale in March and should be available in most good carpet shops and departments.



Two of Linda Barron's six designs for Afia Carpets: Curved Lines (left) and Shapes. Each design is available in three colourways: pastel, medium and strong. All the colours used are subtle and unusual, forming an attractive combination. £23.85 per linear yard

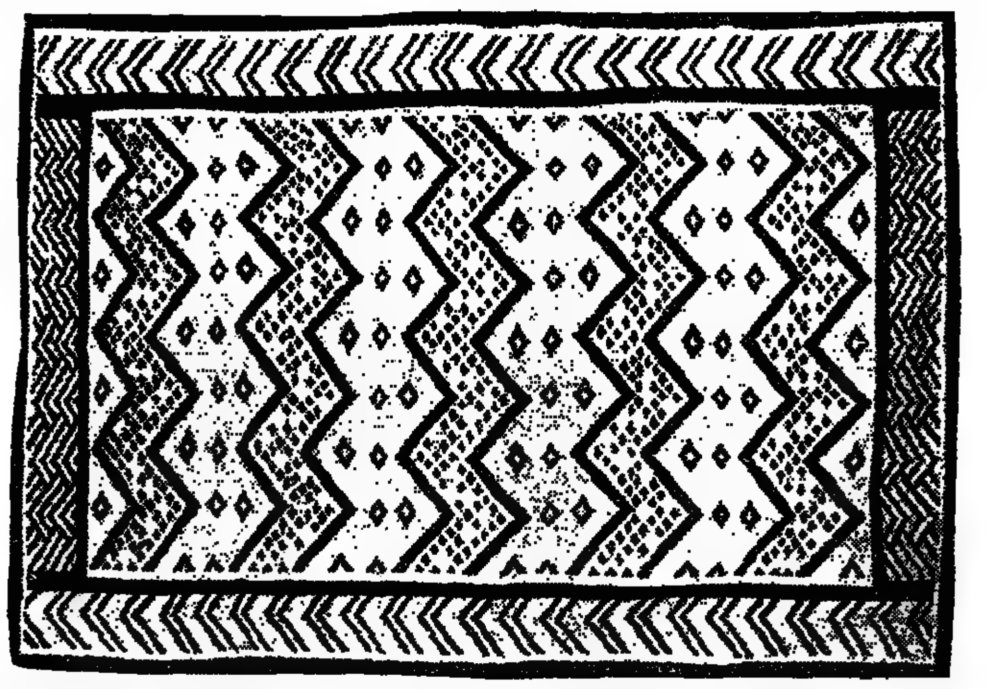
AFIA Carpets of 81 Baker Street, London W1 is one of the most enterprising carpet retailers that I know. It not only sells a marvellous range of carpets, plain, patterned and textured, but the directors are also very adventurous about backing innovative design. Elsewhere on the page I talk about the designs they commissioned from Robert Wallace, but now they are backing a young and very talented girl, Linda Barron, to explore her undoubted textile skills in the (to her) new world of carpets.

Her approach is highly individual and she takes a new, fresh and very individual look at what a patterned carpet should be. The demand for very high-quality patterned carpets is not, and is not likely to be in the near future, very high—it is a small, select market so neither Afia nor Linda Barron is likely to make a fortune out of it. However, both parties to the adventure seem to regard it as just that and are excited by the possibilities it has uncovered.

Linda Barron studied at St. Martin's School of Art, went straight on to designing for Browns of South Molton Street and then worked for the great textile experts, Missoni of Milan.

Her carpet collection shows her textile background—she explores colours in a quite new way, using them rather like a kaleidoscope, so that the same colours re-arrange themselves into different compositions. Sometimes they are used in rather formal squares, other times in free and fluid curving shapes, at other times they assemble themselves into more recognisable symbols.

The colourways are exceedingly original (I love particularly the pale beige, creams, pinks and blues) but all six designs are available in three colour groups—pastel, medium and strong. The carpets are machine-made in a Jacquard Wilton weave and cost £23.85 per linear yard, 27 inches wide and are available only from Afia Carpets.



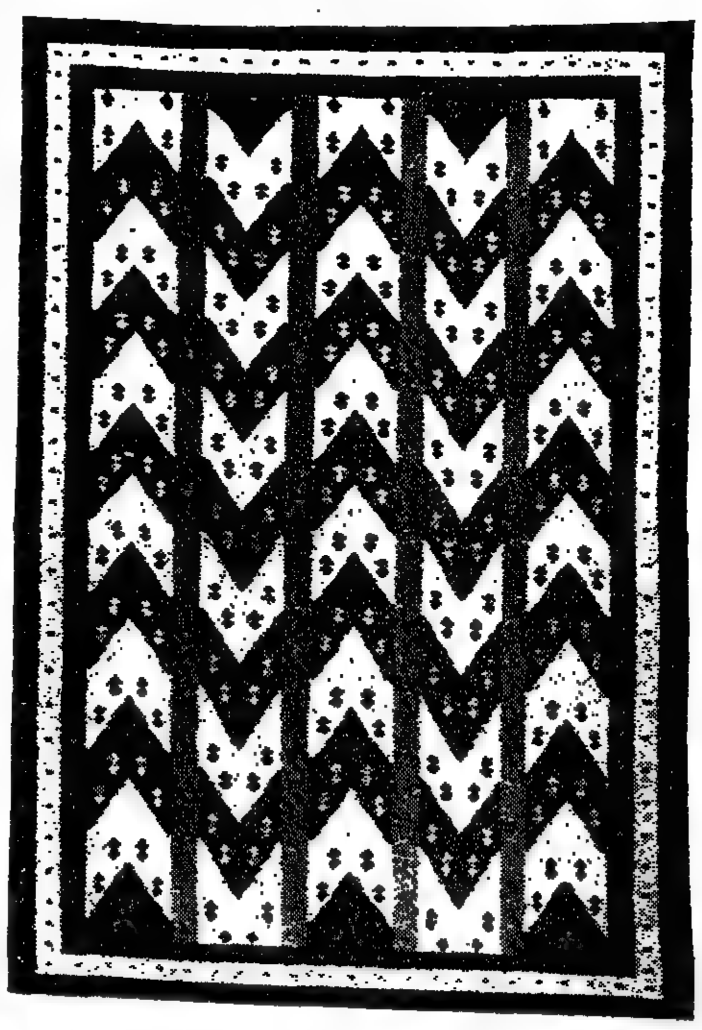
Casablanca, one of the designs in dhurries available from Mary Fox Linton, comes in a multitude of colours, including red, green and blue on a beige background

MARY FOX LINTON has established quite a reputation as an interior designer (for a long time she was in partnership with David Hicks). Besides her interior design work she has a small but charming shop at 1 Elystan Street, London, SW3 where a host of those original and difficult-to-track down pieces that can transform a home can be found. She specialises in just the sort of props that one drools over in the glossy magazines and never knows where to find.

Some of the nicest things to come into her shop recently is a new collection of Indian dhurries—I can't think of a more instant way of bringing panache and colour to a room. Some of the Indian dhurries are brought directly from India, in their original colourways, but others are specially coloured to her own designs. In addition anybody with a specially difficult or unusual colour scheme, can always order a dhurrie in matching colours or have one woven to specific dimensions.

The ready-made dhurries come in two standard sizes—9 ft by 6 ft (£245) and 12 ft by 9 ft (£490). They are all made of 100 per cent pure wool and all are reversible. When both sides are dirty they should be steam-cleaned.

The dhurries may take up to six months to order in special colours but there are plenty of standard colourways to be seen in the shop.



Simla, also from Mary Fox Linton, is available in various colour combinations. This one is particularly striking in avocado green, blue and pink

Beautiful wall-carpet called Kobe. Robert Wallace's design is derived from 18th Century Japanese screens. On a gold background, the irises have green stems and the flowers are in various shades of blue. 4' by 8' 4", it costs about £600

ROBERT WALLACE is an American who has become one of the world's top-class carpet and tapestry designers. He has travelled widely and his delight in the bright primitive colours of Mexico and South America is reflected in much of his work. "The colours and textures, cultures and traditions of the primitive Andean villages have had a tremendous influence on my later work," says Robert Wallace, and when you look at the whole collection the influence is clear.

However, he is a sophisticated, modern designer and admits to many other influences in his work. He has been commissioned by the King of Nepal to design tapestries and carpets for the Royal Palace in Katmandu; and also by the Sultan of Oman. His work can be seen in hotels and homes all over the world.

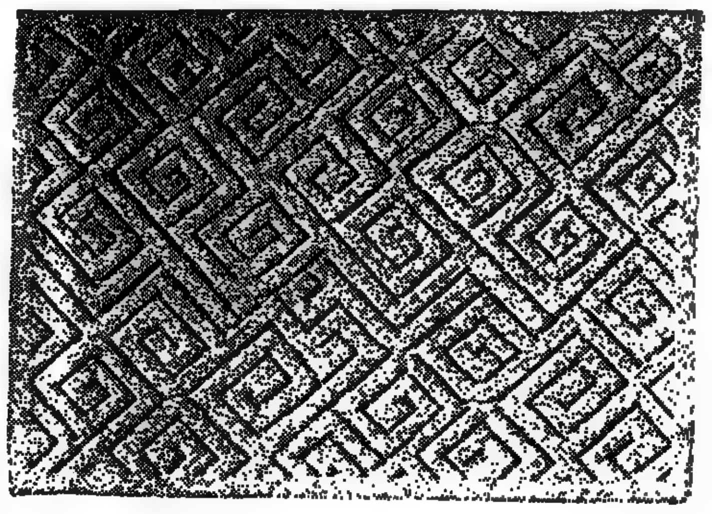
More recently he designed a special collection of exceedingly pretty carpets for Afia Carpets of 81, Baker Street, London, W1. They were all based on 18th century French designs, have the air of delicate old tapestries, and were made in fine Brussels Wilton. They're on sale still at £23.85 per linear yard, 27 inches wide.

Robert Wallace was also for many years the chief designer at the Galway factory of V'Soske-Joyce where there is produced a veritable Rolls-Royce range of carpets. All the carpets are hand-made, they can produce any pattern, any design to any colour. They do wonderful textured carpets and though I love especially the creamy self-patterned textured designs, they can also produce patterned ones, coloured or anything else that you may need to fit in your palace, yacht or modest semi.

Prices are exceedingly expensive starting at £5.00 per square foot but for this money you can be sure of getting one of the finest modern carpets available anywhere in the world.

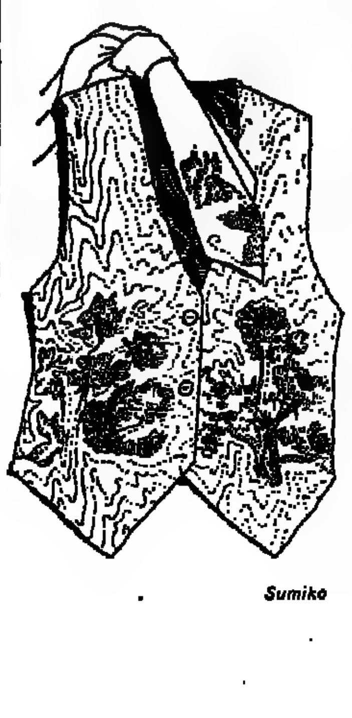
Robert Wallace Designs are at 1-2 Alfred Place, Store Street, London WC1 and anybody needing a special design should contact him there.

In the meantime, just to give you some of the flavour of his work, photographed above is a Robert Wallace design for V'Soske-Joyce which uses natural Berber wool in two heights of pile and is based on a design seen on an Aztec Temple wall. It measures 5ft by 7ft and is only available from Robert Wallace himself. Price is £375, to order.



Aztec, by Robert Wallace

Decorations will be worn



Sumiko

READERS may remember Rose Elliott's charming Hotties which I featured in October. Shown left is another of her ideas — a stunning and unusual waistcoat and matching tie. The waistcoats have either a cream or white quilted front decorated with flowers hand-printed from her own drawings; and a contrasting lining and back.

The range of colours is wide: you could have cream with more sombre colours for the back (such as olive green or grey) for winter, or white with zingy colours (bright red, sunshine yellow or blue) for the summer.

The one with a yellow back, appropriately enough, features a dandelion and a buttercup, the red, an anemone and a sweet pea, and the blue, iris and narcissus.

Waistcoats in all satin cost £39, and ones with a slightly thinner lining, but still with a silky finish, cost £28.50 (both prices include p and p). They come in sizes small (8-10), medium (12) and large (14); the ties cost £9.50.

Write to Rose Elliott Textile Co., 45A Fitzroy Road, London, N.W.1., and she will send you a catalogue and swatches of fabric. Include your 'phone number if you would like her to discuss your order with you.

Hare brained

PERHAPS there is a hint of March madness in the air—but last week's cookery article saw a confusion of hares and leverets. Gremlins may have produced the suggestion that they were interchangeable. Writer Julie Hamilton points out that this is not so—*one* whole hare or *two* leverets are sufficient for the recipe for roast hare.

ARTS

Charles II's coronation procession by Dirck Stoop which went on display at the Museum of London in the Barbican this week. This is the first painting to be bought by the Museum since it established itself in its new home and it cost £48,000 from Roy Miles. It is interesting in being one of the first paintings after Cromwell's government to depict Charles II and was sold by the Duke of St. Albans at Christie's last year. The picture shows the King's cavalcade from the Tower of London to Westminster on April 22, 1661.

John Walker and others

John Walker is not exactly the best known of that generation of our artists now clustering around the 40 mark, but he has been working for more than a decade past with admirable consistency, and an enviable distinction. He has exerted, moreover, a remarkable influence, as wide as any, over his juniors, for all that he has been thus honoured rather more in the emulation than the achievement. Much of the time he has spent working, and showing, abroad, in America especially, where last summer he enjoyed an important, if under-noticed, retrospective at the Phillips Collection in Washington.

Any chance to see his work, therefore, is welcome; and it is indeed a happy chance that puts *two sets of his recent drawings* on show at the same time. Nigel Greenwood, at 41, Sloane Gardens, has filled his gallery

ART

WILLIAM PACKER

with these substantial and handsome works (until February 3), and at the Camden Arts Centre another group fills an entire wall within, and thus dominates, the mixed exhibition, "Drawing In Action" (until January 23).

They are expansive and ambitious charcoal drawings, worked directly from the paintings, echoing the preoccupations, confirming and exploring both surface and imagery. And underlying it all, despite the dirty colour, the heavy, worked-over surface, the concern with matière, is to be felt the direct *and salutary influence of* Matisse. No matter if the nod is towards the huge papiers collés of his extreme old age, or, as is now the case, Walker having drifted lately from abstraction into an equivocal but nevertheless positive figuration, towards the great Parisian paintings, the Moroccans for example, or the Piano Lesson, of the period around the Great War, we see the same flat and frontal presentation, the same shallow space, the useful and unapologetic enjoyment of surface pattern and decoration, the firm, relaxed and effective line.

But Walker is not the only reason for trekking up to Arkwright Road, for he has 19 fellows in the show, most notably Frank Auerbach, Norman Adams and Leon Kossoff; and of the younger artists Graham Crowley, Lee Grandjean and Bruce Russell all deserve notice. And the space is shared by an extraordinary one-man show of the tapestries and embroideries of Honorata Blicharska, whose work sounds much worse than it proves to be. She takes her images directly from photographs of the heroines of advertising and show business, amplifying them considerably in scale, and in transposing them into thread and fabric, achieving surface effects of great subtlety, as the vocabulary of description is re-invented for the medium, and a most surprising and eerie presence.

"Margaux Hemmingway II": tapestry by Honorata Blicharska

Trips down memory lane

In two weeks' time on January 27 the symbiotic relationship between Radios 1 and 2 is severed and they go their separate ways. D'ye ken John Peel at the break of night? I fear I do not. I leave him to the younger folk, enjoining them to turn his programme down to a level tolerably below my pain threshold while I savour the joys of Radio 2. My only grumble about 2 is that I cannot receive it on my main listening equipment for some reason and I have to rely on the inferior reception provided by a transistor set. Otherwise I should be tempted to spend a great deal more time with 2 than I do at present.

Radio 2 specialises in what used to be called light, and is now known as undemanding,

RADIO

ANTHONY CURTIS

entertainment. On it you find serials like *Waggoners' Walk* and comedy shows like *My Sainted Aunt*; on Radio 2 Tuesday Night is Gala Night "from the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, Guernsey," and Friday Night is Music Night "direct from the Hippodrome, Golders Green." Truth to tell, on Radio 2 every night is gala night, and the gala is always in celebration of something that happened in the world of popular entertainment at least 20 or 30 years ago. If Radio 1 is where you discover the attitudes of the young, Radio 2 is where you rediscover your youth. To take you gently by the hand along this trip down memory lane there are smooth professional nostalgists like Hubert Gregg, David Jacobs, and Ian Wallace: anything or anyone who was once a hit from 1900 to 1960 you are likely to hear resuscitated by Radio 2.

Currently, after *Sportsdesk*, on Tuesdays at 10.2 pm, we are being served a rich steaming nostalgic goulash called *Laughter in the Air* described as "the story of Radio Comedy in ten parts" based on Barry Took's book of the same name. The ingredients are spicily diverse and embrace comedy in the widest sense. The archive material of light entertainment seems to be in somewhat better shape than in more solemn areas and it is being ransacked to good effect. This week's instalment was all about the world of Music Hall, what on radio was sometimes called Variety. The name of Eric Maschwitz, first head of the Variety Department who had a brilliant flair for finding talent, was invoked, and so was that of John Sharman, another legendary figure. We were given an excerpt from a variety show broadcast from Radio Olympia in 1933 as a starter for a menu that stretched in time to the end of the war.

Frankie Howerd

Clearly radio stimulated the whole variety scene in the 1930s like the proverbial dose of salts although to begin with the impresarios feared it would take away audiences from the halls. At first George Black stopped the artists he had under contract from appearing on radio, but when he saw how much radio helped the box-office the ban was lifted. Live variety broadcasts began. We heard Will Fyffe on stage at the Holborn Empire in 1938 singing "I belong to Glasgee."

It was a great period for double-acts, for sunshine boys and girls. Dickie Henderson who narrated this programme spoke of the beginnings of Gert and Daisy (Elsie and Doris Waters) and played a clip of Ethel Revnell and Gracie West (the Long and Short of it); then there were people like Kenway and Young; Scott and Whaley (the Kentucky Minstrels); and Murray and Mooney ("even their relations think they're funny"); the Two Leslies the very names are like a bell that tolls one back to the oscillating beehive.

They *were* sometimes funny and always professional. That is what emerged even when we reached the grim days of Workers' Playtime, with Ernie Bevin decreeing that munitions factories must have music breaks, and Issy Bonn cracking terrible topical jokes, "least said soonest lended." This long retrospect of a thousand gags ended with an unknown Frankie Howerd coming out of the army and making an immediate impact. Next week's instalment will be devoted to Bandwaggon and Itma which have a whole hour to themselves.

Meanwhile back on 4 the retrospective has not been neglected: there have been excellent programmes, compiled by Derek Parker, about Tamara Karsavina, and about Dame Ethel Smyth. Both the ballerina and the composer, two legendary, liberating women, came abundantly back to life.

THEATRES THIS WEEK . . . AND NEXT

HALF MOON, Alie Street, E1—*Guys and Dolls*. A jolly revival with lots of doubling to keep the numbers down in the cast. Reviewed Tuesday/Wednesday. THEATRE UPSTAIRS—*Anchorman*. Artificial thrills in a badly-imagined thriller about our impending military takeover. Reviewed Wednesday/Thursday.

ROYAL COURT—*Mary Barnes*. Fascinating, and admirably acted, documentary about the "non-coercive" psychiatric treatment of an adult woman. Reviewed Thursday/Friday. GREENWICH — *Da*. Hugh Leonard's inexplicably overlooked play with the same principals as in its production at the King's Head 18 months ago shouldn't be overlooked now. Reviewed Friday.

At the Bush on Monday, the *Paranormal Revue* opens after a delay due to sore throats; and at the New End in Hampstead, a Marxian fantasy, *A Day in Hollywood, a Night in the Ukraine*. Tuesday, at the little Overground in Kingston, a black farce by Royce Ryton in a South African setting, *Cocktails for the Minister*. On Wednesday, *Daughters of Men* at Hampstead, *Daddy's Girl* at the Soho Poly. Thursday, the whole of *The Warp* at the ICA, starting at 10.30 am, ending Heaven knows when; and a welcome return visit of *Le Grand Magic Circus*, the mad French comedy show, to the Shaftesbury.

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white.

BBC 1

9.20 am Feeling Great! 9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop. 12.13 pm Weather.

12.15 Grandstand: Football Focus (12.20); Racing From Ascot 12.50, 1.25, 2.00); Rugby League Challenge Cup Draw (1.10); Ski-ing (1.15, 1.45) "The Lauberhorn"—Men's Downhill; American Football (2.20) University of Southern California v Michigan; Rugby League (3.05) John Player Trophy—semi-final; China Emerges (3.50) for the Olympic Games in Moscow; Table Tennis (4.05) Norwich Union Championship; 4.40 Final Score.

5.15 The Pink Panther.
5.35 News.
5.45 Sport/Regional News.
5.50 Jim'll Fix It.
6.25 Dr. Who.
6.50 Saturday Night At The Movies: "Merrill's Marauders."
8.25 The Two Ronnies.
9.05 Starsky and Hutch.
9.55 News.
10.05 Match of the Day.
11.05 Parkinson.

All Regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:—

Wales—5.45-5.50 pm Sport/News For Wales. 12.05 am News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—4.55-5.15 pm Scoreboard. 5.45-5.50 Scoreboard. 10.05 Sportscene. 10.35-11.05 A Handful of Songs. 12.05 am News and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland—5.05-5.15 pm Scoreboard. 5.45-5.50 *Northern Ireland News*. 12.05 am News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

BBC 2

†3.00 pm Saturday Cinema: "Lone Star" starring Clark Gable.
4.30 Play Away.
5.00 One Man and His Dog.
5.35 Network.
6.05 Men of Ideas.
6.50 Rock Goes To College.
7.30 News and Sport.
7.45 Horizon.
8.35 On The Record.
9.05 "Orfeo," Opera by Monteverdi with the Kent Opera Group.
11.00 News On 2.
11.05 Midnight Movie: "Ice Palace" starring Richard Burton.

LONDON

8.35 am Sesame Street. 9.35 The Monkees. 10.00 The Saturday Morning Show. 11.30 Tarzan.

12.30 pm World of Sport: 12.35 Headline; 1.15 News; 1.25 Motorcycling; 1.35 Ice Hockey; 2.00 Greyhound Racing; 3.00 Show Jumping; 3.10 International Sports Special—World Cup Gymnastic Championships from Sao Paulo, Brazil; 3.45 Half-time Soccer Round-up; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results Service.
5.05 News.
5.15 Dick Barton — Special Agent.
5.30 Happy Days.
6.00 Chips.
7.00 Celebrity Squares.
7.30 Dick Turpin.
8.00 David Frost Presents: A Gift of Song—The music for UNICEF concert.
9.30 News.
9.45 "Cahill, United States Marshall" starring John Wayne.
11.40 How To Stay Alive.
12.10 am Stars On Ice.
12.40 Close: Painting by Leonardo Da Vinci, music by J. S. Bach.

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA

9.10 am Cartoon Time. 9.30 Make It Count. 10.00 The Secret Lives of Waldo Kitty. 10.30 Tiswas. 5.30 pm Mork and Mindy. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 Pro-Celebrity Snooker. 12.25 am At the End of the Day.

ATV

9.10 am Play Guitar II. 9.35 Make It Count. 10.05 The Lost Island. 10.30 Tiswas. 5.30 pm Mork and Mindy. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 Nana Mouskouri in Concert.

BORDER

9.00 am Sesame Street. 5.30 pm Mork and Mindy. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 George Hamilton IV.

CHANNEL

12.18 pm Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.30 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams. 6.30 Happy Days. 11.40 Celebrity Concert. Nana Mouskouri.

GRAMPIAN

9.00 am Sesame Street. 5.30 pm Sale of the Century, followed by area Weather Forecast, Highland League and Shinty Results. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 Reflections. 11.45 Peter Straker in Concert.

GRANADA

9.40 am Make It Count. 10.05 The Flintstones. 10.30 Tiswas. 5.30 pm Mork and Mindy. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 Survival Special. 12.40 am Sidestreet.

HTV

9.00 am A Child Wants a Home. 9.30 Batman. 10.00 Lassie. 10.30 Tiswas. 6.00 pm The Incredible Hulk. 11.45 The New Avengers.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV General Service except: 5.30-6.00 pm Sion a Sian. 11.45-12.30 am Cup Rugby.

SCOTTISH

9.30 am Adventures in Rainbow Country. 11.30 Chopper Squad. 5.30 pm Mr. and Mrs. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 Late Call. 11.45 Celebrity Concert: Henry Mancini.

SOUTHERN

9.00 am Sesame Street. 11.30 The Six Million Dollar Man. 12.27 pm Regional Weather Forecast. 5.15 Batman. 5.30 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.35 Southern News. 11.40 Celebrity Concert, starring Cleo Laine.

TYNE TEES

9.00 am Saturday Shake-up. 9.05 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams. 10.00 Call It Macaroni. 10.25 Saturday Shake-up. 10.35 Saturday Morning Film: "City of Bad Men," starring Jeanne Crain and Dale Robertson. 12.15 pm Saturday Shake-up. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.45 Michel Legrand and Friends. 12.15 am Epilogue.

ULSTER

10.10 am The Bubbles. 10.13 Spiderman. 10.35 Tarzan. 11.30 Sesame Street. 6.00 pm The Incredible Hulk.

WESTWARD

9.00 am First Steps in First Aid. 9.25 Saturday Morning Picture Show: "The Doberman Gang." 10.55 Dynomutt The Dog Wonder. 11.25 Look and See. 12.25 pm Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 5.30 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams. 6.30 Happy Days. 11.40 Celebrity Concert (Nana Mouskouri). 12.35 am Faith For Life.

YORKSHIRE

9.00 am Spiderman. 9.20 "Journey To The Far Side Of The Sun," starring Ian Hendry. 10.55 Cartoon Time. 11.00 You Can Make It. 11.30 Six Million Dollar Man. 5.30 pm The Muppet Show. 6.00 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 George Hamilton IV. 12.10 am The Practice.

RADIO 1

(S) Stereophonic broadcast

5.00 am As Radio 2. 8.06 Ed Stewart with Junior Choice (S). 10.00 Peter Powell. 1.00 pm Adrian Juste (S). 2.00 *Paul Gambaccini* (S). 4.31 Mike Read (S). 6.31 In Concert (S). 7.30-2.02 am As Radio 2.

RADIO 2

5.00 am News Summary. 5.02 Tom Edwards (S). 8.06 As Radio 1. 10.02 Kevin Morrison (S). 12.02 pm Frankie Vaughan with records (S). 1.02 My Sainted Aunt. 1.30-6.00 Sport On 2: Football League Special (1.30, 2.20, 2.50, 3.10, 3.45); Racing from Ascot (1.30, 2.05, 2.35, 3.10) plus results and classified check at 5.45); Cricket (1.30, 2.20, 5.00) One-day international: Australia v England); Tennis (1.30, 2.20, 5.00) Colgate Masters Tournament; 5.00 Sports Report: Classified Football checks 5.00, 5.45; Rugby Round-up at 5.25. 6.03 Festival. 7.02 *Don Davis's Just For Fun*. 7.30 Radio 2 Top Tunes (S). 8.30 Stan Reynolds and His Orchestra (S). 9.30 Saturday Night with the BBC Radio Orchestra (S). 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Ray Moore with The Late Show (S), including 12.00 News. 2.00-2.02 am News Summary.

RADIO 3

7.55 am Weather. 8.00 News. 8.05 Aubade (S). 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (S). 10.15 Stereo Release (S). 11.00 Leonid Kogan violin recital (S). 11.45 Robin Ray presents popular *classics on record* (S). 1.00 pm News. 1.05 Song Recital (S). 2.05 Man of Action: David Piper chooses records (S). 3.20 Solomon Plays Mozart and Beethoven (S). 4.10 A Question of Interpretation: Stockhausen's Adieu (S). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests (S). 5.45 Critics' Forum. 6.35 Harrogate Festival 1978 Concert, part 1 (S). 7.20 Interval Reading. 7.30 Concert, part 2. 8.15 Pornography and Society — A psychiatric view (talk by Sir Martin Roth). 8.55 BBC Symphony Orchestra (S). 10.05 Bach and Bartok piano recital (S). 11.05 Sounds Interesting (S). 11.55-12.00 News.

RADIO 4

6.25 am Shipping forecast. 6.30 News. 6.32 Farming Today. 6.50 Yours Faithfully. 6.55 Weather; programme news. 7.00 News. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 Today's Papers. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 7.50 It's a Bargain. 7.55 Weather; programme news. 8.00 News. 8.10 Sport On 4. 9.00 News. 9.05 International Assignment. 9.30 Talking Politics. 9.55 News Stand. 10.15 Daily Service. 10.30 Pick of the Week (S). 11.20 *Time For Verse*. 11.30 Wildlife. 11.55 Spiegl on Saturday. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm Away From It All. 12.27 You've Got To Be Joking (S). 12.55 Weather; programme news. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping forecast. 2.00 Bookshelf. 2.30 Saturday Afternoon Theatre (S). 3.30 Does He Take Sugar? 4.00 Something Appealing, Something Appalling. 4.45 Enquire Within. 5.00 Kaleidoscope Encore. 5.25 Week Ending (S). 5.50 Shipping forecast. 5.55 Weather; programme news. 6.00 News. 6.15 Desert Island Discs. 6.50 Stop The Week with Robert Robinson. 7.30 Baker's Dozen (S). 8.30 *Saturday Night Theatre* (S). 10.00 News. 10.15 With Great Pleasure (S). 11.00 Lighten Our Darkness. 11.15 Singer's Choice. 11.45 Just Before Midnight. 12.00 News.

BBC Radio London

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.32 Good Fishing. 8.00 News; weather, traffic, shopping, sports news. 8.15 The London Gardener. 8.30 Saturday Scene. 10.30 Sportscene. 11.30 The Robbie Vincent Show. 2.00 pm Bob Powel with London Country. 4.30 Marjorie Bilbow with Close Up. 5.00 Sounds Good. 6.30 Close: As Radio 2.

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 250

1 PxP! RxN (if PxP; 2 QxP ch, K-R1; 3 R-R5 ch); 2 P-N7, Q-K2 (QxP; 3 RxR ch, K-R2; 4 Q-B5 ch wins the rook); 3 RxQ, R(2)xR; 4 P-Q6, R-Q2; 5 Q-R6, Resigns. If 5...P-B3; 6 Q-R8 ch, K-B2; 7 QxR ch, KxQ; 8 P-N8(Q) mate.

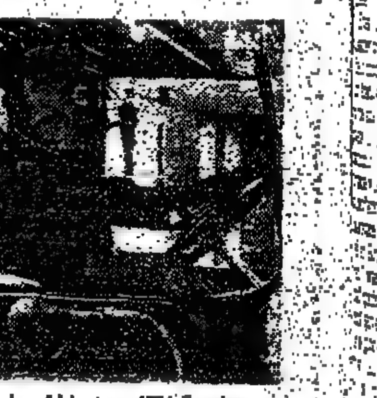
Solution to Problem No. 250

1 Q-R7. If 1...K-B6; 2 Q-QR1, K-N7; 3 Q-KR1. If 1...K-B4; 2 Q-KN7, K-B5; 3 Q-B6. If 1...K-N4; 2 Q-KB7, K-R5; 3 B-Q8.

WEEKEND CHOICE

SATURDAY — There aren't many surprises these days in The Two Ronnies (BBC-1) but that is just another way of saying that it is one of the week's most predictably enjoyable programmes. It finishes just in time to switch to BBC-2 for the start of Orfeo, one of the world's oldest operas, produced *for the Kent Opera by Britain's* own Renaissance man, Dr. Jonathan Miller.

SUNDAY — BBC-2's World About Us shows films by early wildlife cameraman Cherry Kearton. BBC-1's "Play Of The Month," Marya, is directed by Jack Gold, one of the best directors of film, here working electronically for the first time. *That* clashes with the first episode of ITV's Thomas And Sarah which carries on the story of the characters played by John Alderton and Pauline Collins in Upstairs Downstairs.



John Alderton, ITV Sunday

TV RATINGS

UK TOP 20 (viewers m.)
(Week Ending December 31)

1	Morecambe and Wise (Thms.)	16.15
2	Sound of Music (BBC)	18.50
3	Starsky and Hutch (BBC)	17.05
4	This is Your Life (Thms.)	16.90
5	George and Mildred (Thms.)	15.85
6	Jim'll Fix It (BBC)	15.75
7	The Queen (BBC)	15.55
8	Coronation St. (Wed) (Gran.)	15.35
9	Larry Grayson (BBC)	15.10
10	Two Ronnies (BBC)	14.80
11	Call of the Wild (BBC)	14.65
12	Diamonds Are Forever (ITV)	14.35
13	Oliver (BBC)	14.15
14	Muppet Show (ATV)	14.10
15	Liver Birds (BBC)	14.05
16	Carry On Girls (BBC)	13.70
17	Crossroads (Wed.) (ATV)	13.60
18	Benny Hill (Thms.)	13.30
19	Sweeney (Thms.)	13.15
20	Steptoe and Son (BBC)	12.95

Figures compiled by Audits of Great Britain for the Joint Industry Committee for Television Advertising Research.

U.S. TOP TEN (Nielsen Ratings)
Week ending January 9

1	60 Minutes (News) (ABC)	32.2
2	Mork and Mindy (Comedy) (ABC)	32.1
3	Three's Company (Comedy) (ABC)	30.7
4	Laverne and Shirley (Comedy) (ABC)	30.0
5	Happy Days (Comedy) (ABC)	28.8
6	Tuesday Movie (CBS)	28.7
7	All in the Family (Comedy) (CBS)	27.6
8	MASH (Comedy) (CBS)	27.5
9	What's Happening (Comedy) (ABC)	27.4
10	Taxi (Comedy) (ABC)	25.7

A Nielsen rating is not a numerical total.

LEISURE

BRIDGE

E. P. C. COTTER

NEITHER declarer in my two hands today saw how to bring home his contract. Let us look first at this slam hand:

N
♠ A 7 4 3
♡ J 10 8 2
◇ 8 7 5
♣ 6 4

W
♠ 10 8
♡ Q 7 6 5
◇ K Q J 9
♣ 7 5 3

E
♠ Q J 9 5
♡ —
◇ 10 6 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 8 2

S
♠ K 6 2
♡ A K 9 4 3
◇ A
♣ A K Q J

At game all South dealt and opened the bidding with two clubs, to which North replied with two diamonds. South now rebid two hearts, and after North had raised to four hearts, he introduced a Blackwood four no trumps. Learning from the five diamond response that his partner had the Ace of Spades, South bid six hearts.

When West led the diamond King, everything seemed plain sailing to the declarer. Winning the lead in hand, he cashed the Ace of trumps, expecting to make 12 tricks without difficulty, and 13 if the trump Queen dropped in one or two rounds. But East's failure to follow suit on the heart Ace was a blow. He continued with a low trump; West took his Queen, and led a third trump to dummy's ten. South's only hope now was to find West with four clubs so that he could cash four rounds, and discard two of dummy's spades, which would allow him to ruff his spade losers on the table. However, West ruffed the fourth round of clubs, and the contract was lost.

South should have reasoned that only four trumps in one hand could endanger his slam, and taken suitable precautions. At trick two he must lead his nine of hearts. If West does not take his Queen, South cashes Ace, King of hearts, and then runs his clubs, leaving West to take his Queen as and when he likes. If West takes his Queen at once and returns a trump, dummy wins, a diamond is ruffed in hand with the trump Ace, dummy is re-entered with a heart to the ten, and the last diamond is ruffed with the heart King. Declarer crosses to the spade Ace, draws West's last trump with the Knave, discarding a spade from hand, and the slam is made by dummy reversal.

In the second hand, the declarer fell for a pretty face:

N
♠ A 8
♡ J 10 6
◇ 7 6 5
♣ 9 8 6 4 3

W
♠ K 9 6 5 2
♡ 7 5
◇ Q J 10 4
♣ K 2

E
♠ Q 10 4 3
♡ 9 3
◇ K 8 2
♣ J 10 7 5

S
♠ J 7
♡ A K Q 8 4 2
◇ A 9 3
♣ A Q

With East-West vulnerable, South dealt and bid two hearts, North said two no trumps, and raised her partner's rebid of three hearts to four hearts.

Winning West's diamond Queen in hand, declarer cashed the heart Ace, crossed to dummy's ten, and led a club, finessing the Queen. As West had the King, South could not avoid losing two diamonds and a spade to go one down.

The correct play is not difficult. At trick two declarer should cash the trump Ace to make sure there are not four trumps with one defender. Then he makes the club Ace, and follows with the Queen. West wins, and the defence take two diamond tricks, and then switch to a spade. Declarer wins with dummy's Ace, ruffs a club high in hand, returns to the table via the trump ten, ruffs another club high, and crosses to the Knave of hearts to cash the established club, discarding his losing spade.

If South had held Ace, two of clubs instead of Ace, Queen he would surely have adopted the right line.

CHESS

LEONARD BARDEN

A CLASSIC chessboard dilemma is the choice between a safe line, keeping a draw under control, and an unclear, complicated, sacrificial attack. Should you go for the full point, give priority to eliminating the risk of defeat, or vary according to the opponent or the situation in the match or tournament?

Even the greatest masters disagree on the right answer to this conundrum. Bobby Fischer and Anatoly Karpov are ranged on the side of safety. Fischer's powers of calculation and his preference for classical open play rarely led him into obscure and randomised positions.

His advice to average players, quoted in Brady's book "Bobby Fischer," was: "Concentrate on material gains. Whatever your opponent gives you, take, unless you see a good reason not to."

Karpov is, even more than Fischer, a player who anticipates danger far in advance. Take away his results against Korchnoi, the one player in the world who has regularly found a way through Karpov's defences, and the champion has rarely lost more than once or twice to any opponent. Karpov claims that the endgame is his favourite aspect of chess but that "*if the opponent offers complications, I don't object.*"

Plenty of grandmasters take a different view. They opt for mazy tactics rather than simple play, trusting their analytical skills to outgun the opponent. Korchnoi, Spassky, Larsen and Tal in general prefer to stir up complications rather than "risk" a draw against a weaker opponent: their occasional extra loss is outweighed by a high percentage of wins.

Some specialists in tactics choose their style partly on grounds of physical stamina. Young and fit, they reckon to use their fast sight of the board during the rush for the time control at move 40.

The five-hour session normal in international chess means that older opponents feel the strain and fatigue just when quick reactions are vital.

"Aim to reach the crisis of the game in the fifth hour" was a technique first prescribed by Spassky's trainer for his world championship matches with Petrosian; it did not prove infallible then, while in the recent match at Baguio Karpov's fifth-hour blitzing rebounded and almost cost him his title. Such an approach is better suited to tournaments than to the slower tempo of a match.

Simon Webb's excellent book of advice for average players "Chess for Tigers," recommends varying your style according to the opponent. Webb suggests a minimum risk technique against weaker opponents, waiting for their strategic errors; while against strong players he advocates randomising the position, aiming for tactical melées which are hard to calculate and where the strong opponent may overlook some hidden but vital point.

In club and county chess and in weekend tournaments it is rarely possible to vary style to opponent because too little will be known about him. But in master chess it is possible to play the man as well as the board, and this affected move 16 of this week's game when Gligoric gave up a pawn rather than allow Petrosian to swap queens.

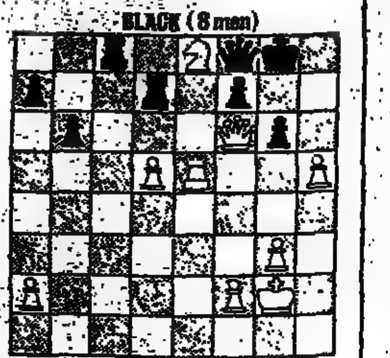
His reasoning was twofold: Petrosian is ill-at-ease on the rare occasions when his opponent gets a chance to attack the king, while the setting for the game was the annual USSR v. Yugoslavia match where the top boards usually agree quick draws. Thus Black was psychologically unprepared to face a war to the death, and missed his chance to refute the sacrifice on move 18.

White: S. Gligoric (Yugoslavia). Black: T. Petrosian (USSR). Opening: Grunfeld Defence (Tiflis 1973).

1 P-Q4, N-KB3; 2 P-QB4, P-KN3; 3 N-QB3, P-Q4; 4 PxP, NxP; 5 P-K4, NxN; 6 PxN, B-N2; 7 B-QB4, P-QB4; 8 N-K2, N-B3; 9 B-K3, 0-0; 10 0-0, Q-B2; 11 R-B1, R-Q1 (an opening popularised by two Spassky v Fischer games); 12 Q-Q2, Q-R4; 13 KR-Q1, B-Q2; 14 B-KR6, PxP; 15 BxB, KxB; 16 Q-B4!? (going for the risk play; the endgame after 16 PxP, QxQ is level), PxP; 17 QxP ch, K-R1; 18 R-Q5, Q-B2? (Q-N5! 19 N-B4, QxB; 20 NxP ch, PxN; 21 R-R5 ch, PxR; 22 QxQ, B-K1! stops the attack) 19 Q-B3! P-KR3; 20 N-B4, K-R2; 21 NxP! (winning, for if KxN; 22 RxB, RxR; 23 Q-B7 ch with a mating attack. As played, White gets an extra pawn and wins simply), R-KN1; 22 RxB, QxR; 23 BxR ch, KxB; 24 QxP, K-R2; 25 N-K5, Q-Q3; 26 NxN, R-QB1; 27 Q-QN3, RxN; 28 RxR, PxR; 29 Q-B7 ch, K-R1; 30 P-N3, P-B4; 31 K-N2, Q-B2; 32 Q-KB4, Q-B3; 33 Q-B8 ch, K-R2; 34 QxKP ch, K-N1; 35 Q-Q8 ch, K-N2; 36 Q-Q5, Q-B2; 37 P-K5, P-B5; 38 P-K6, K-B3; 39 Q-Q7, Resigns.

POSITION NO. 250

BLACK (8 men)



WHITE (9 men)

Sveshnikov v. Bagirov, USSR Championship 1979. At a modest investment of rook for knight and pawn, White (to move) reached this fine attacking position. How should he continue, and with what result?

PROBLEM NO. 250

BLACK (1 man)

WHITE (6 men)

White mates in three moves, against any defence (by G. Heathcote, Illustrated London News, 1891).

Solutions Page 14

Success story in the salerooms

COLLECTING

JANET MARSH

THE LONDON auction houses ended the year with their usual triumphal chorus of past successes and future prospects, reviewed in two even more sumptuous annual volumes (Christies' *Review of the Season*; Sotheby's *Art at Auction*) and a battery of press releases.

Christies, taking the last three months of 1978, reckon an increase of 40.7 per cent in net sales over the equivalent period of 1977. Sotheby's, taking a four-month period, shows a figure of 36 per cent. Phillips, reviewing the whole year, show an increase of 19 per cent. The figures take in too many varied factors (such as the opening of new salerooms) to be truly comparable; but they do suggest a sharp end-of-the-year upturn in investment in antiques and fine art.

The most striking aspect of the figures is the increasingly international operation of the London houses which they reveal. For the first time Christies' overseas salerooms—in New York, Geneva, Amsterdam and Rome—have overtaken the two London salerooms in the value of sales, with a net £20,758,000 representing rather more than 50 per cent of the total (excluding house sales). Sotheby's branches in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Zurich, Hong Kong, Monaco and Florence, accounted for over 57 per cent of net sales during the autumn season.

Taking into account also the amount of goods sent from abroad for sale in London—no less than two-thirds of Christies' £3m Old Master sale in July came from abroad for instance—the London salerooms appear to be handling a staggering share of the international art market.

Christopher Weston, chairman of Phillips, which has now 10 salerooms in Europe and North America, says, "There has been overwhelming evidence in the past year of the growing international nature of the saleroom business, not only in the ever increasing number of overseas buyers and vendors at Phillips sales in the United Kingdom, but in the emphasis placed on sales in the United States and Canada and on the Continent.

"The strong influence of overseas buyers in markets both at home and abroad does sometimes have its drawbacks. For example, it is unwise to judge estimates for a sale purely on the prices reached for similar items in an earlier auction when exceptional figures were obtained from buyers who will not attend every auction or have a 'one-off' requirement.

"It is significant that British buyers have been playing an increasingly important part at our overseas sales. One English dealer told me two weeks ago that he had moved to a house just by Gatwick airport, purely so that he could fly more easily to overseas sales for a day or sometimes two days at a minimum cost in time . . ."

Increasingly the overseas sales (which include, of course, the Swiss jewellery auctions) represent the higher prices. Christies' overseas total was made up from only 88 sales, for instance, as against the 362 London sales which netted a slightly lower total.

The overseas sales total include some remarkable individual prices. The Gutenberg Bible sold in April by Christies, New York, on behalf of the General Theological Seminary New York, realised $2,200,000 (£1,176,000) — a World record auction price for a book, and indeed for any work of art other than a painting.

Other record prices in Christies' New York saleroom during the autumn season included £440,000 for a 1928 Mondrian composition, £399,473 for a pink diamond ring of 20.82 carats, £121,000 for the autograph manuscript of *Tannhauser* and £88,000 for a pair of American Queen Anne walnut chairs. In Geneva a ruby and diamond necklace given by Tsar Nicholas II to his daughter on her marriage to Alfred Duke of Edinburgh in 1874 realised £370,370. In London one of the highest prices of the season was paid for the Procaccini painting of the Madonna and Child with the Infant John the Baptist, formerly in the collection of Charles I, sold in the Old Masters sale of December 1 for £150,000. In the Commonwealth inventory of 1649 it was valued at £5.

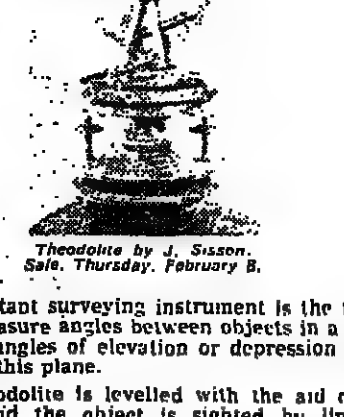
It has been a notable year generally for Old Master paintings and drawings at auction. In June Sotheby's sold the Branchini Madonna by Giovanni di Paolo for £½m, and Dürer's Doss' Trento landscape—the only Dürer landscape watercolour to be sold this century and the only one still in private hands—for £640,000. Both pictures came from the collection of Robert von Hirsch, which was Sotheby's great coup of the year and will be reckoned one of the great art sales of the century.

Christies broke several records for prices for individual artists, among them a Frozen River Landscape by Isack Jensz van Ostade, at £270,000, Caracci's vivid, realistic "Butcher's Shop" for £260,000 and Pannini's Interior of St. Pauls, for £240,000.

Aiming more at those of us who are not likely to invest in this sort of market, Phillips have again issued their Annual Survey, based on the opinion of 100 of their specialists all over the world. This chart classifies "Pacemakers of 1978—items strongest in demand or price appreciation;" "Pacemakers to watch in 1969" and "Items which should continue to be a hedge against inflation."

There are no great surprises: the fact is that in the present boom situation, *everything* looks like a pacemaker. Asked to nominate the best hedges against inflation, the specialists almost unanimous choice was good quality furniture in all categories. However, this recommendation was surpassed, say Phillips, "when the second choice, jewellery, was linked with other *portable* items of value such as stamps, coins, gold and silver boxes, miniatures, netsuke, watches and small silver."

Other investment choices (which are divided into price categories of under £500, £500-£2,500, and £2,500 plus) include old master drawings, sporting guns, books, toys, silver, art nouveau, art deco, Victorian paintings, bracket clocks, fine old cars (distinctly in the £2,500-plus class), early Islamic pottery and musical instruments.



Theodolite by J. Sisson. Sale, Thursday, February 8.

A pair of Chelsea-Derby Candlestick groups. To be sold on Thursday, 18th January, 1979.

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Saturday January 13 1979

The economics of chaos

IT IS IRONIC that in the course of what is being widely debated as an issue of power, the main feature which has so far been displayed in the present industrial crisis is powerlessness. The Government seems to have no power to influence the TUC. The TUC, many of whose leaders are incensed at the threat to their own members, have no power to bring Mr. Moss Evans into line, and it remains to be seen whether Mr. Moss Evans has any power to control his militants.

So far, however, the messy shambles of the Government's wages policy has been viewed remarkably calmly in the financial markets. Sterling and Government stocks have weakened only slightly. The City is clearly much less excited about wages policy, at any rate in the private sector, than Ministers are, and seems relatively unimpressed by talk of dislocation and lost output.

City's calm

So far as output is concerned, the calm is a simple matter of experience. The 1974 coal strike, and the prolonged three-day working which followed, made only a minor dent in the national output figures by the end of the year. Indeed, the emergency produced some remarkable achievements in productivity.

That experience is also relevant to the City's real basis for calm: the firm belief that if present monetary policies are maintained and, as the Chancellor has proposed, tightened, then the inflationary consequences of excessive wage claims will be limited. That belief is also supported by the great improvement in the balance of payments, thanks to North Sea oil and gas, in the past five years.

The past wage explosion took place against the background of a deep trade deficit and after a monetary explosion: an international collapse of sterling followed—though after a considerable delay. This year the North Sea will provide further import savings, at a time when the chaos in Iran is causing problems for other economies. With the U.S. economy weakening, and world growth as a whole more likely to slow down than speed up, there is little reason to fear a sudden explosion in import costs.

This does not of course mean that excessive wage settlements will do no harm. They will divert company finance from investment to the financing of rising costs, and slow down future growth. More immediately, they will lay British industry more open to import competition than would be the case were sterling weaker; both home and export sales will be harder to achieve, and output and jobs will be lost where productivity cannot be raised fast enough to meet this competition. However, it is possible that this challenge, if firmly maintained, will actually provide an incentive to achieve some of the productivity which we now know is attainable in an emergency.

A reason

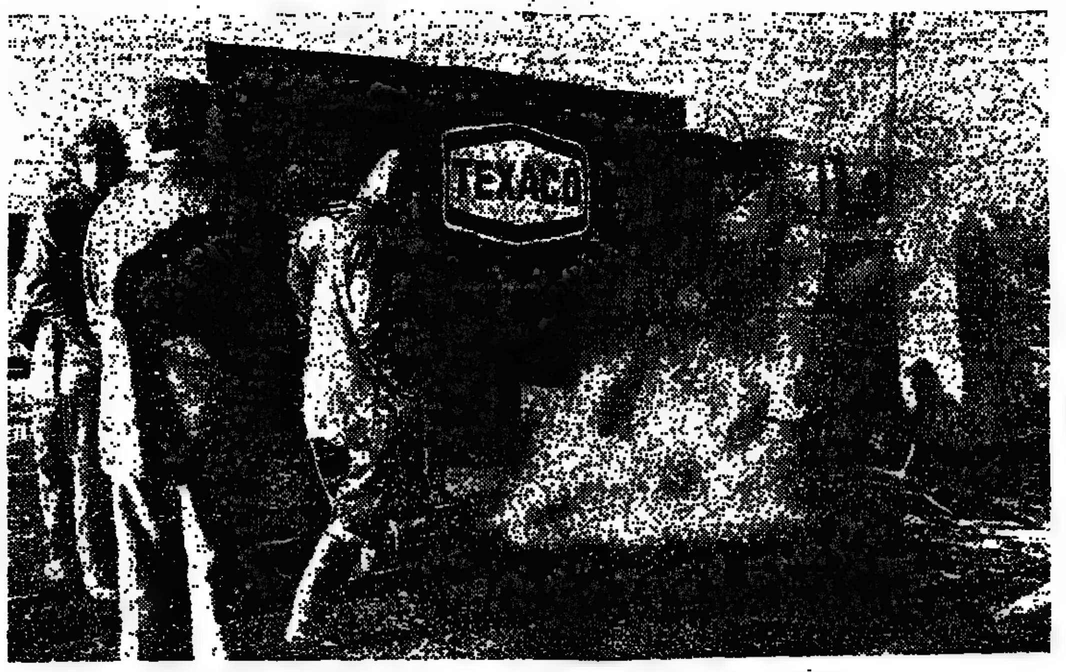
That is one of the positive reasons for refusing to finance inflation or to "protect competitiveness" (for a very short period) by allowing sterling to depreciate and inflation to rise still higher.

Indeed, as long as the Government retains the power to protect the value of the currency, the fact of life will in the end impose that fundamental incomes policy which matters—the fact that high wages in sound money can only be paid if they are earned, whether through higher output or reduced manpower. The question is how to defend sterling when it is potentially under assault from Mr. Evans and his unruly members.

The Chancellor has put forward the right policy, though for the wrong reasons. The need for a tighter fiscal policy does not arise from the size of wage claims, but from the fact that fiscal stimulus during the present financial year has been excessive. The high interest rates which resulted from Government crowding out in the credit market account for the fact that the gilts market is already discounting a sizeable rise in inflationary pressure. However, the prospective crowding out next year is far more than the market can prospectively bear.

Government commands

Only if the borrowing requirement can be reduced can a tight monetary policy be sustained without risking the collapse of the hard-pressed private sector. This can best be achieved by cutting the proportion of national income going on current public spending — either through a relatively rational level of wage settlements in the public sector, or through cuts in manning or services. Here too wages must be earned. Failing adequate action here taxes must rise—and that must mean indirect taxes — for it is natural, after all, that prices should rise in face of large wage increases. Whatever its relations with the TUC, the Government still commands the instruments to tackle inflation, if it still has the political power, as the Chancellor appears to have the will, to use them.



Fuelling the flames . . . picket duty at Hemel Hempstead

Away from it all . . . Mr. and Mrs. Callaghan in Guadeloupe

The biggest union challenge to government since 1974

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD, Political Editor

THE British Government is now surviving on a day-to-day basis. While cynics may suggest that there is nothing new in that—indeed looking back over the years to 1976 it may seem a miracle that the Government is still in office—there is one fundamental difference from anything that has gone before. The Government this week has come perilously close to losing its main card: the belief that it can get on with the trades unions, or at least that it can do so better than the Tories.

When Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, returned from the Caribbean on Wednesday there was one flicker of action which suggested that he might be about to reassert his authority. Mr. Callaghan had talks with senior trades union leaders and warned them of the possible consequences of their actions. By the end of Thursday, however, it was clear that the warning had gone unheeded and the most that Ministers were able to claim was that the fact that the road haulage strike has now been made official means that it might be somewhat easier to control.

On the day-to-day basis on which the Government is living, that is not nothing. The state of emergency—outside Ulster—has now been postponed and may prove unnecessary since the troops could be moved in without having to requisition civilian vehicles. (The Government is distinctly relieved that the Transport and General Workers' leaders have said that they will not object to the use of troops in every circumstance.)

It should also be easier to organise the maintenance of essential supplies, such as animal feedstocks, since it should now be possible to have a clearer picture of what is going on. There might, too, be some slight relief for the Government if union leaders keep their promise and manage to control secondary picketing. Meanwhile, the Government might hope that its warnings to the unions about the dangers of their actions getting out of hand will eventually sink in.

Yet all of that would amount to no more than small comfort even if the lorry drivers' dispute were the only one with which the Government has to deal. It is not; nor is it necessarily the worst. The conflict which the Government has long feared most is that with the local authority manual workers, and that has yet to come, though the unofficial action by the sewage workers in the Manchester area this week has already given a foretaste of what it might be like. There are also the train drivers and perhaps the railwaymen as a whole. Beyond them there are the miners and who knows who else?

No major obstacle

For that is the real danger now: nobody is quite sure what is going to happen next. Before Christmas, for example, the lorry drivers' claim was not foreseen as a major obstacle to the Government's policies, though the tanker drivers' was. But now that the lorry drivers have come out on strike, there is no telling where their action might lead. There is, on the face of it, no connection between the lorry drivers' dispute and the 24-hour stoppage by some British Airways pilots yesterday, but who is to say that it is not a case of one dispute leading to another or, as one Government source put it, of the growing tendency to "strike first and think afterwards?" In other words, the whole process could be cumulative, leading even to the re-opening of past settlements.

There is also the possibility that even the limited action so far has already wrecked the Government's incomes policy beyond recognition. It seems unlikely, for instance, that the lorry drivers, who have already turned down a 15 per cent offer, will go back to work for anything less now that the strike has become official, and that in turn is almost bound to have an influence on claims from other sectors. At the same time, the Government seems to be dropping its argument that the average increase in earnings can be kept within single figures even if the 5 per cent target is missed. Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, spoke at his Press conference on Thursday evening of private sector offers now going above 10 per cent. By the Government's own reckoning that means that the single figure inflation target is also in jeopardy.

For the moment, however, the Government believes that it has won a few days for stocktaking. It is thought that the effects of the lorry drivers' strike are unlikely to become any worse before early next week, and indeed the strike may even become more orderly. The Government also believes that it can survive next Tuesday's censure motion in the House of Commons, probably with the help of the Ulster Unionists. Yet after that it will be largely a matter of seeing how things go.

In the short-term no new initiatives are planned because it is frankly admitted that no new initiatives have been thought of. The Government, after all, has warned the unions of the possible consequences of their action and found that the union leaders cannot control their members. For a while, therefore, there is little to do but wait, watch the situation as it develops and look especially at the public reaction.

It might be, for example, that the lorry drivers' strike will turn out to be less of a national disaster than has sometimes been forecast. The rail strike could be off, and the action of the local authority manual workers could go off at half-cock. Public opinion could even solidify behind the Government.

Those are the hopes, if not the expectations. Meanwhile the Government will do what it can to hold the line in those settlements where it is directly involved. Whatever other Ministers might say, there has been no word yet either from Mr. Callaghan or Mr. Healey that the 5 per cent policy is being abandoned in the public sector. There might be some trimming at the edges — special help for the low paid, the promise of bigger settlements later and, where it is possible, attempts at productivity deals—but if Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Healey have their way, the settlements will still be far closer to 5 per cent than to 15 per cent. Indeed the line seems to be that if the Government is to retain any credibility at all, it must stick near to the 5 per cent target — almost whatever the consequences.

The Government also knows, however, that it may have very little time left. It is a measure of its day-to-day existence that definitions of short- and medium-term have changed. Short-term means perhaps the next ten days. Medium-term means the next few weeks. The latter is the period which the Government believes it may have in which to patch up an agreement with the unions in case it is obliged to go to the country.

It still seems unlikely that Mr. Callaghan will choose to do this voluntarily. A man who declined to hold a General Election last October, when the signs were that he had an evens chance of winning and an excellent platform on which to fight, will presumably think twice about going at a time of industrial unrest and apparent government impotence. But the difference now is that the Government is more ready to admit that the time when it can rely on the support of one or other of the smaller parties may be running out: not next week perhaps, but maybe next month or the one after that. Thus the Government had better be prepared.

The strategy here remains what it has been since last summer: namely to reach an agreement with the unions on the long-term approach to incomes policy. The trouble is that so far it has always failed. It failed in the summer, when the Government was devising Phase IV. It was defeated at the Labour Party Conference. It failed to pass the TUC economic committee when a joint document was drawn up last November and in a sense it was defeated again this week when Mr. Callaghan's appeal to union leaders had so little effect.

Agreement of sorts

The Government is insistent on the need to try again and one's own guess would be that sooner or later the union leaders will come round and that an agreement of some sort will be reached. But the problem is then that it may be too late. For in a curious way—and certainly the opinion polls seem to bear this out—the Government has not suffered too much from the absence of an agreement so far. It has generally been assumed that despite the series of rebuffs from the TUC and from the party conference, a Labour Government could still get along with the unions far better than the Tories. There was no need, therefore, for anything to be put into writing.

Yet what the events of the past few days have suggested is that the union leaders and the rank and file mean what they say and that they will have no truck with a voluntary incomes policy, whether it is administered by Labour or Conservatives. Of course, the great bulk of trade union leaders still want Labour to win and Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Healey may be right in thinking that, after a pause for thought, they will prove more accommodating. But the fact is that in the meantime they have come close to undermining Labour's best asset—the belief that relations with the unions could only be worse under the Tories.

Mr. Callaghan and his colleagues still have one consolation which they will no doubt play to the full. It is that while the Government may be in difficulties, no-one else has a magic wand. Mrs. Thatcher may have called for a great debate on the role of the trades unions, but she has put forward precious few solutions. The taxation of short-term security benefits is widely held to be impractical and the Government may have succeeded in controlling secondary picketing on a voluntary basis—a social contract of a kind—without the need for legislation.

Besides, Mr. Callaghan is still entitled to claim that though he has not yet found the answer, he has at least pointed to the relevant question: how to control wages and inflation in a free society? One should not underestimate the strength of a campaign based on the need to try, try and try again, nor the Prime Minister's natural aptitude for such a task.

As for the Tories, the only advice if it were needed now would be, act responsibly, make no extravagant claims and do not gloat at the Government's—or the country's—misfortunes. All the signs are that the Opposition is prepare to act in this quiet way. The Government may be defeating itself. That indeed is the normal manner in which oppositions win elections.

Letters to the Editor

Slumpflation

From Mr. E. Mehl

Sir,—Mr. H. Saxon Tate (January 8) suggests that our failure in the economic field is due to the attitude which says "Look at that idle rich man riding about in a Rolls-Royce—I haven't got one therefore he shouldn't have one—take it off him"—an unreasoned attitude to be deplored.

I am sure that Mr. Saxon Tate has many American friends who proudly point to the Cadillacs owned by some of their employees saying "The more my employees earn the more successful and profitable we are."

This progressive attitude is not adopted by very many British Employers who prefer to pay lower wages for lower and less economic productivity and in cases of success on the part of some of their employees with commensurate higher earnings, change their payment structure so that the successful employee's income does not exceed that thought reasonable for one of lower status—namely "only an employee."

I therefore suggest that a change in attitude of many employers is as vital as a change in attitude of employees.

Edgar Mehl.
19, Neville Court, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, NW8.

Pensions

From the Managing Director, Tolley Publishing Co.

Sir,—Eric Short on pension funds managed by insurance companies (January 8), gave some reasons why employers are becoming dissatisfied with straightforward insured pension schemes. There are also at least three others.

The flexibility of the self-administered fund trustees to change the fund's investment advisers without penalty, e.g. changing from one managed fund to another, from merchant bank to stockbroker, etc. The surrender values paid by most insurance companies on the discontinuance of an insured scheme are often penal, being calculated on an arbitrary formula devised by the insurance company. Indeed, some go so far as to offer a substantial addition to the surrender value if, and only if, the funds are reinvested for a minimum of, say, five years, in one or more of that insurance company's managed funds.

The administrative work of running a self-administered fund is actually far less than with an insured scheme. Insurance brokers will try to persuade companies that the reverse is true, but those of us who have been involved in both types of schemes know them to be wrong.

The company can vary the trust deed and rules of a self-administered pension fund, subject only to Occupational Pensions Board and Superannuation Funds office limitations. There can be problems about persuading an insurance company to vary one of its normal pension scheme packages.

J. V. Wilson.
102/104 High Street, Croydon, Surrey

Insiders

From Mr. B. Fulwell

Sir,—What seems to have been forgotten or overlooked in the discussions on the proposed restrictions on "insider" dealings in shares is that for every "insider" sale there has to be a corresponding buyer, and for every "insider" purchase a corresponding seller. No one is forced to conclude a bargain by buying or selling shares; he does so presumably because he is satisfied with the price he is paying or obtaining but he must realise that a risk attaches to the investment.

Everyone would like to buy at the bottom and sell out at be top. But for each person who does this, there is a corresponding seller at the bottom and a buyer at the top.

What is upsetting our legislators is the fact that some persons described as "insiders" will have a better opportunity of determining where is the bottom and where the top. But in our world everyone is not equal and never likely to be; a skilled analyst following one industry or one company must have an advantage over an innocent, naive dealer.

The affairs of most quoted companies are complex; dealing in them must be a gamble. False representations which induce a sale or purchase are generally actionable. Let the Stock Exchange continue to regulate dealings as previously; directors should not be discouraged to hold shares in their companies and thus continue to share fully the risks of success or failure.

Brian Fulwell.
5, Queen Square, Bristol

Balances

From Mr. R. Anstey

Sir,—On Monday Lex said "Perhaps it was always unrealistic to expect that the government share of the North Sea bonanza would ever be used simply to help balance the budget, rather than for some politically more rewarding purpose." I suggest to you that in fact balancing the budget could be highly rewarding politically.

A consistantly balanced budget should lead to the elimination of inflation and to a major fall in interest rates. This would stimulate capital investment and make the economy increasingly competitive. The GNP could begin to rise at a rate comparable with other leading industrial nations. Jobs would be created and there would be better job opportunities for the young. Surely all this would be highly popular with the electorate?

Richard Anstey.
Platt Farm,
Long Mill Lane,
St. Mary's Platt,
Sevenoaks, Kent

Fees

From the Chief Accountant, H.M. Land Registry

Sir,—With reference to the letter from Mr. P. J. Yates (Jan. 5) regarding fees for office copies, the charge under the Land Registration Fee Order 1970 for an office copy of the entries in a register of title was 20p. This was increased to 75p by the 1975 Fee Order and, despite inflation, this remains the current fee. The fee of £2.25 quoted by Mr. Yates is a composite fee for copies of entries in the register of all filed documents referred to on the register and of the title plan.

K. Batey.
Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2

Record

From Mr. D. Gunson

Sir,—The 1,125 per cent increase in Land Registry fees in five years (January 5) does not constitute a record.

Two years ago I invested £120 in Gilts through the Trustee Savings Bank, and the commission charge was 35p. A month ago I did a similar transaction and was charged £7, an increase of 1,900 per cent!

One wonders whether the Trustee Savings Bank is still the champion of the small investor.

D. H. Gunson.
71, Maltese Road, Chelmsford, Essex

Wheat

From Mr. M. Bond

Sir, — Mr. Cherrington (December 22) is vague and at times inaccurate in his article. For example he states that milling wheat is tested for protein by the Hagberg method which demonstrates millability and gluten content by a series of laboratory tests.

In fact the main tests may be summarised as follows: Hagberg, a simple test to determine the alpha amylase activity in grain. High activity gives a low Hagberg reading, little activity gives a high reading. Acceptable standards for milling vary, but generally over 200 is required. The Hagberg test is regarded as accurate ±5 per cent on the same sample. Different samples from the same lot may vary considerably more than this especially in some conditions and with certain varieties, e.g. in 1978 Maris Freeman gave very varied results. Protein: various methods giving good accuracy and close results on the same sample. Gluten: a simple test to carry out but difficult to assess the result as not only the amount of gluten is involved. Colour, elasticity and texture are important as well. Drying at too high a temperature or heating in store will damage or destroy the gluten.

Mr. Cherrington complains that no mention of gluten is made on the contract. This is so, but if the contract is for milling wheat then by definition the wheat must be suitable for milling and satisfactory gluten is, therefore, necessary.

"If it has been well sampled and is up to standard" is the crux of the matter. The truth is that grain is hardly ever well sampled and, also, that grain in store rarely improves, may remain constant in standard but is more likely to decline.

Mr. Cherrington suggests that these tests are completely out of the knowledge or control of the farmer. The farmer may ask. We are happy not only to tell the farmer about these tests but will demonstrate the tests being carried out. Also on the back of the standard contract note it is stated that where the buyer has claimed an allowance on, or rejected the goods, the seller may require a sample to be submitted to a public analyst for justification of any claim or rejection.

Michael Bond.
Pratt and Haynes,
Enslow, Bletchington,
Oxford.

Weights

From Mr. J. Talbot

Sir,—There must be many people who possess letter balances with a set of weights in ounces, and they, too, will have had to face a recurring problem of whether a letter exceeds 10, 20, 60 grams or whatever weight limit was applicable. Some, like me, will have been driven to standing in a queue at the Post Office in order to find out.

Having grown tired of doing so, I sought a set of small metric weights at stationers, ironmongers, chemists and their suppliers and, finally, in desperation, the National Physical Laboratory. Following a lead which they gave me I eventually found a manufacturer who was good enough to accept my order for a short range of small weights. Triumph, for I now have them!

Is there not an opportunity here for the Post Office to show enterprise? If at a fair price they offered four weights (for example, 10, 20, 50 and 100 grams which with elementary ingenuity would cover every weight in 10-gram steps up to 180 grams—nearly 6¼ ozs), they would surely be meeting a demand and saving much time for the public and their own counter staff?

J. E. Talbot.
Verdley Down, Midhurst Road, Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey.

Heathrow

From Mr. H. Lamotte

Sir,—I am delighted British Airways is taking to the open skies (January 9). Unfortunately everybody at Heathrow Airport seems to be taking to the barricades.

While British Airways is organising itself to meet the era of mass travel that lies ahead, nothing is being done to the three terminals at Heathrow which are rapidly becoming obsolete. The check-in, security and immigration services as well as the baggage handling facilities are hopelessly inadequate even during what used to be regarded as off-peak hours.

As a frequent air traveller I find conditions at Heathrow have become virtually intolerable. If British Airways is taking to the open skies, the British Airports Authority should be making a quick dash to the drawing-boards and expand Heathrow's passenger facilities before total chaos ensues.

H. A. Lamotte.
73, Cadogan Gardens, SW3

Some new angles on the bicycle

The lie-back-and-enjoy-it bike: David Gordon Wilson on his recumbent bicycle in Cambridge, Massachussetts. The handlebars are beneath his posterior.

PEDALLING around Cambridge, Massachusetts, in a space-age bathchair is a British expatriate who is trying to turn the shape of the bicycle on its head.

David Gordon Wilson's odd-looking machine really is a bike, but one that he reckons should by rights be as common on our roads as the ones we are used to.

Mr. Wilson, a professor of mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, developed it in co-operation with Mr. Fred Willkie, a student at Berkeley, primarily to make a safer machine than the familiar diamond-frame bikes.

Recumbent

But now he has ironed out many of the bugs after a good deal of work, he claims that his recumbent design, in which the rider half-sits, half-reclines in a car-type seat, has considerable advantages over conventional bikes. In particular, "it is wonderfully comfortable in all weathers and for all distances."

Recumbents are not new, but Mr. Wilson believes that the Wilson-Willkie, which incorporates a powerful new brake, is a big step forward. He hopes it will go into small-scale production soon so that more people can try cycling in comfort.

Interest in cycling in the U.S. and Europe has been gaining momentum during the last two or three years. In London, many more riders are venturing on to the roads in spite of the traffic, and a rash of new bike shops has appeared in the last year or so with evocative names such as Bicycle Revival and Blazing Pedals.

Cycling's benefits to both the individual and the community as a means of exercise and a pollution-free form of transport are being vigorously endorsed by the British Cycling Bureau ("you enjoy the spin, they enjoy the spin-off"). And the Health Education Council is backing the message by recommending "cycling to stay fit" as part of its Look after Yourself campaign.

"A lot of people come in and spend £100-£120 for a bike they can ride to work and use for some club racing at weekends," says Mr. Graham Snowling, manager of a big South London shop.

Total sales in Britain have been climbing steadily for at least ten years, from 648,000 in 1968 to 1,050,000 last year, according to figures from the Bicycle Association, which represents the manufacturers. They lost little ground even in 1977, when Raleigh had a long strike and which parents will remember as the year of the skateboard.

To talk of the British market is to talk of TI Raleigh, which has a 50 per cent share in unit terms and 60 per cent in sales revenue, even though imports are coming in at very competitive prices from manufacturers in France, Austria, West Germany, Italy and elsewhere.

Raleigh, which claims that its Nottingham plant is the biggest cycle factory in the world, turns out about 2m bikes a year worth £100m and exports two-thirds as either complete bikes or components.

No other manufacturer has a 10 per cent share of the British market, though the cycle factory of the huge Steyr-Daimler-Puch concern of Austria comes close—incidentally buying its three-speed hubs from Sturmey-Archer, Raleigh's components division.

The upswing has encouraged new sales outlets, including mail-order offers and an "experiment" by Woolworth's which is in its second year of retailing a range of 10 West German-made machines at 90 of its stores, and some of the range at 30 more. Mr. Lyndon Ellis, Woolworth's cycles buyer, says: "We are getting a toehold in the market, which is a leisure area, and we will shortly evaluate the results."

The top end of the market for mass-produced machines is about the £100 mark but sales of drop-handlebar sports machines at all prices have shot up to about 40 per cent of the market while small-wheel bikes, pioneered by the Moulton in the 1960s take 20 per cent.

From £100 upwards you can spend almost as much as you like, for the market in this area is for stylish lightweight sports-racing machines costing anything up to £800. For your money you can choose the frame and components you want at specialist shops up and down the country. And such is the demand for some made-to-measure frames that the waiting list can run into months.

BY MICHAEL STRUTT

The Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory has been taking a close interest in the bicycle's rediscovery and looking at ways of integrating cyclists, and the bicycle as a means of transport, into our crowded and dangerous road system.

It has helped to set up experimental cycle routes in Portsmouth and Peterborough, and published a number of studies on safety equipment and cycle use and ownership.

Riders in Peterborough are lucky. Special routes are being made there as the city doubles its population by the 1980s. But the urban cyclist's paradise is still Stevenage new town with its separate 26-mile cycleway network—shared by mopeds—that links all the residential, work and school areas. Significantly, the corporation's statistics show that Stevenage cyclists are four times less likely to be injured than the national average.

While road conditions have changed out of all recognition since the turn of the century, bicycles have altered very little.

Mr. Wilson, who is co-author of the book *Bicycling Science*, argues that the bicycle's development has been all but static since its heyday in the 1890s — when many weird and wonderful designs, and the main improvements, appeared.

"Every year, new car models are announced with features which in the sum have amounted to enormous improvements over cars of 75 years ago. In contrast, there has been no fundamental improvement in bicycles in this whole period."

The reason is "that the appearance on the transport scene of the powered automobile siphoned off all the adventurous mechanical engineers and backyard mechanics into that field." Bicycles have been caught in a vicious circle as manufacturers cut out "non-essentials" to keep prices down.

So limitations such as poor braking in rain, lack of weather protection and meagre arrangements for carrying luggage — whose correction "would provide little problem to NASA or General Motors" — remain.

Crouch

The drop-handlebar bikes are a case in point. Though new materials are turning some into 20 lb featherweights, the back-bent, head-forward crouch riding position, to cut wind resistance, makes a hospital specialist and a physiologist I spoke to wince. Meanwhile, most roadsters, at 35-50 lbs, are still too heavy for the less muscular of us to carry comfortably up a flight of steps.

Interestingly, *Bicycling Science* offers no easy solutions to sort out the drawbacks. Nor did several international design competitions, one of them set up by Mr. Wilson himself 11 years ago, though there were some fascinating entries.

The bicycle's protagonists are divided on what you can do to improve it without adding seriously to its weight, cost and complexity. Indeed, *Bicycling Science's* main author, Mr. Frank Whitt, a retired chemical engineer living in London, does not share Mr. Wilson's enthusiasm for recumbents.

He believes that the upright position gives better control and that the view you have in traffic at that height is too useful to lose. "There's no engine: the rider *is* the bike. So a bike isn't really a vehicle, it's a tool; and just as you need different kinds of knives for different jobs, so you need different bikes."

The man who made the most startling impact on the shape of the bicycle this century is Mr. Alex Moulton, the designer and inventor responsible for the Hydrolastic suspension on Leyland cars. His small-wheel bike appeared in 1962 and set the trend.

He designed the Moulton around the standard, 27-inch wheel bike riding position, but with its 16-inch wheels, rubber suspension and exceptional luggage room it was in a class of its own and it won an award from the Design Centre in 1964.

Raleigh, which took over Moulton manufacture in 1967 after turning it down in the first instance, says it stopped making them in 1974 for a variety of reasons, among them declining interest by consumers and the fact that the company had its own successful small-wheeler. No one is now manufacturing the bicycle.

Would Mr. Moulton produce a radically different bicycle now? He says: "I am designing a much-improved Moulton for the upper end of the market which is now in protoype form. It will have the classical riding position because I am quite sure from my research among doctors and others that this is the correct one.

"The new machine will be very light and have all the Moulton features but we don't know yet when it will be ready."

Mr. Wilson says the Wilson-Willkie improves on bicycles with the conventional riding position because you can brake really hard in an emergency, as in a car, and stay upright. The patented brake was designed by an MIT student.

Second, in a collision you are more likely to hit something feet first instead of head first, and if you slide off you fall more easily: and there is no handlebar stem in front which could catch the thorax or groin.

Third, he claims more speed for the same pedalling effort because the rider, resting against the seat, pushes directly from the hips and shoulders; and offers less wind resistance.

Raleigh's technical director, Mr. Keith Hutcheon, who has met Mr. Wilson, says the company is cautiously interested in the machine, but necessarily has to balance innovation against business sense on something that is an unknown quantity.

Agile

"You've got to be pretty agile with a new design in the first instance because you do have problems and these are best dealt with on a small scale," he said. "Sometimes it is better for something to make its own name and its own way first before a lumbering giant of a company steps in to make it.

"It is difficult to get a bike into a decent-sized box to send overseas—and expensive. A recumbent would be even more difficult because it is longer."

Raleigh would also like to see that the Wilson bicycle can be ridden hands-off, like ordinary ones, "because you have more control if you are distracted and you haven't the same amount of body leverage on a recumbent," Mr. Hutcheon says. "If he can show it can be, then we will be more interested."

One way and another the bicycle is moving slowly ahead. Some of the finely-engineered equipment on the best sports and racing bikes is made by aerospace companies and even the humble drive chain has been improved.

The Japanese, with their usual thoroughness, are now a big force in the supply of high-quality parts for European and American machines. They have copied and sometimes improved on the best European components. For example, they sell an exact copy of the Italian Campagnolo chainset for £35—half its price.

A Japanese manufacturer also makes a copy of the Sturmey-Archer hub, so there is no room for complacency of the kind that scuttled Britain's motorcycle industry. Raleigh itself is quick to point out that it keeps an ear close to the ground.

To succeed, a bicycle that is different needs to have obvious advantages over conventional ones, but there are plenty of avenues to be explored.

An American inventor has produced a spokeless wheel and is well on the way to making a complete spokeless-wheel bicycle, with the wheel running in a groove mounted around most of its circumference. And a Dutch engineer now living in the U.S. is trying to interest manufacturers in his foot-lever-driven machine which has automatic transmission, although only enthusiasts are likely to take to riding to work lying on their stomachs.

What seems to be needed is an imaginative leap, such as Mr. Moulton's, which can result in mass-production of an improved design as significant as the Polaroid was to cameras and the Andrews Maclaren Baby Buggy to pushchairs.

In this uncertain situation a shrewdly-patented design which caught on could change the market and put many more cyclists on the road.

Weekend Brief

Irish ways

For a man who is known desperately to want to become Prime Minister, Ireland's Charlie Haughey, the present Minister of Health, is going a funny way towards it. This week, he announced new stringent controls over the advertising of cigarettes. In future packets will have to carry a warning saying: "Smokers die younger." There will also be rules governing television advertising. It will not be possible to describe filters, additives and tobacco substitutes which lessen the harmful effects.

This comes from the man who last July introduced the breathaliser to Ireland, and, more recently, launched a campaign against drinking, on television and in the press. One film clip shows The Who rock-group, with particular emphasis on the skatty Keith Moon, who recently died from a combination of drugs and drink. He alerted Ireland's young people not to be like him and die young because of drink.

Now, as is well known, the Irish like a drink, but there is not a great deal of resentment about the breathalyser. Ireland has a bad road-accident record. There are more than 50 fatal car crashes a month in the Republic, as well as hundreds of lesser injuries. The roads leave something to be desired, since there are no motorways and less than 100 miles of dual carriageway. Nevertheless, drink accounts for a lot of the accidents. There was a 15 per cent drop in fatal injuries in the last four months of 1978.

The new anti-smoking curbs are also unlikely to cause much annoyance, since Ireland is after all just catching up with the rest of the world.

Where Mr. Haughey has really got himself into a tangle is a third area of social welfare, birth control. Contraception is an extremely sensitive subject in Catholic Ireland.

A new health "family" planning bill proposes to legalise importing advertising and selling of contraceptives, which stipulates that they can only be made available on a doctor's prescription.

The position at the moment is anomalous. Contraceptives are not officially allowed in the country, and the "natural method" of birth control is supposed to be exercised. However, in 1973, the supreme court ruled that a law forbidding the import of contraceptives was unconstitutional. Since then, contraceptives of all kinds have found their way in. They are widely available to everybody who wants them at a number of family planning clinics. The clinics are not legal, but they are not banned either, and have not been closed down. Payment at the clinics is by a standard donation. Usually a dozen condoms for £1.10.

The attitude of the Church is best summed up by a letter from a Redemptorist Rev. John Francis Corbett, to the Irish Times this week. "Contraceptive sexuality, even among the married, is an atheistic, materialistic, hedonist practice beneath the dignity of God-created man or women," he said.

The Bishops have condemned the legislation for contraceptives, saying it would lead to social disorders, such as promiscuity, divorce, abortion, and even euthanasia. But because of the strong public demand for contraception, the clinics are very well attended—they have said ultimately the decision is up to the Government.

Haughey is hoping that, through his Bill, he will be able to stop non-married young people using contraceptives. But, by compromising over the issue, he will probably be pleasing no one. The Doctors' Association has already said its members would object to non-medical contraceptives. They can opt out of this scheme if they want to. The likelihood that, because the demand is so great, curbs on contraceptives will, like prohibition, be unworkable.

Whether it will damage Haughey's chances of succeeding Jack Lynch as Prime Minister probably within the next four years remains to be seen.

He was once a higher flyer than is is now in the previous Sianna Fail Government, which fell in 1974. He was the Minister of Finance. But he got involved in an arms conspiracy trial. Although he was acquitted, his star fell from that time. Considered a very able man and still in the running as possible Prime Minister, the 53-year-old Haughey has three sons and a daughter. And, in public at least, neither smokes nor drinks.

Charles Haughey: high hopes

Court action

If the first decade of open tennis has proved anything it is that the players themselves cannot decide what is best for its future development.

Although the potential exists for some 250 men to earn good livings from the game—prize money alone last year exceeded $10m—the demands of certain players and their managers and the apparent lack of feeling of obligation to leading events, threatens to undermine the delicately balanced structure of the Grand Prix competition which has been the backbone of the men's game since 1970. Happily the women show a much greater sense of responsibility and act together to protect the welfare of their area of operation.

The enforced withdrawal of the world's number one Jimmy Connors from this week's strife-torn $400,000 Colgate Masters at Madison Square Garden has served to highlight the difficulties. Neither Bjorn Borg nor Guillermo Vilas accepted one of the eight places at the Masters, presumably because they had to forfeit their bonus pool prizes for failing to compete in the minimum 20 tournaments last year required by the rules. Yet they, like Connors who played only 12 tournaments, knew the situation before the season began but, unlike him, they did not see an obligation to the public and sponsors upon whom their livelihood depends.

Some might think that today's top players get their rewards too easily. A rash of lucrative four-man exhibition matches and eight-man invitation events with rewards of up to $100,000 to the winner in the last quarter of 1978 denuded tournaments of the very names which promoters depend upon to fill seats.

The attempt of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council to regulate the situation by requiring players to be directed to six tournaments in 1979 has foundered on the intransigence of the top five men who refused to sign the undertaking.

Neither can the Association of Tennis Professionals, the players' union, do much to help. Borg has resigned his membership and Connors, McEnroe, Vilas and Gerulaitis are also independents.

Nor, it seems, would the world's two major championships, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, be likely to support the proposed new Grand Prix rules. Of course neither Championship really needs the Grand Prix and both would probably prefer to opt out rather than have their entries threatened. Accordingly a decision regarding the new rules has been postponed until March 5.

All of this is typical of the problems that have constantly bedevilled men's tennis during its rapid evolution as a professional game. The in fighting between the establishment, the players' associations, the leading independents, the managers and the promoters has constantly threatened to bring the whole edifice tumbling down.

Strong brew

As everyone over the age of about 45 will tell you, beer is nothing like as good as it was before the war. The fault is not that it is a simple chemical process, but that modern methods of mass production entail much tighter controls of the raw material than were used by the master brewers of yesteryear.

In no sphere is that more apparent than in the buying of malting barley. Until about 20 years ago malting barley was bought by eye and feel. A thin skinned grain, plump and floury when cut was the ideal to aim at.

Farmers took a pride in their samples and haggled long and earnestly at markets with merchants equally seized with the mystery of the craft.

Then some chemist discovered that the criterion for malting quality above all others was the nitrogen content, which in fact determines the amont of extract which will be produced from the malt. Immediately the buyers forgot their early training, or at any rate disregarded it, and while they bid on market samples, these bids were all subject to a nitrogen test by some laboratory technician who would not know a barley grain from a pomegranite.

Farmers took the hint, and while many grew malting varieties the majority took to growing barley more for yield than for their traditional malting quality. Buyers complained because these heavy yielding barleys, which they often had to buy in the absence of anything else, were not what they really wanted.

But all is not yet lost. At the Institute of Brewing's National Malting Barley Competition held in London yesterday the champion samples were everything that a traditional maltster would have desired — mellow, plump and thin skinned and not a word of the nitrogen tests, although they were held in the background.

There was another link with the past too. The champion sample was grown by Mr. J. Somers from Minehead, Somerset, an area from which many of the past champion samples came. The trouble is that the yields, although good, were not up to those of the newer heavy yielding varieties and the maltsters present were not prepared to state in absolute terms the premiums they would pay for quality. So a nostalgic occasion but no real forerunner of better beer to come.

Contributors:
Stuart Dalby,
John Barrett and
John Cherrington.

Economic Diary

MONDAY—House of Commons reassembles after Christmas recess—Government statement expected on industrial situation. Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (December). Retail sales provisional figures for December. Annual Review White Paper on the state of British farming. European Parliament in session, Strasbourg. Foreign Affairs Council two-day meeting opens, Brussels. UN General Assembly opens for 10 days. U.S. legislature reconvenes after Christmas recess. Tokyo round of world trade negotiations resume in Geneva.

TUESDAY—Commons debate on industrial situation. Sir Terence Beckett, chairman of Ford, addresses Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Hilton Hotel, London. Statement by General Council of British Shipping on 1979 prospects. Mr. James Prior, MP, speaks at London Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Savoy Hotel, London.

WEDNESDAY — Confederation of British Industry monthly council meeting. Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (December). Monthly index of average earnings (November).

THURSDAY—Index of industrial production provisional figures for November. UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-December). London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-December). Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, Spanish First Secretary, leads Socialist Workers' Party delegation for two-day talks in London—meeting expected with Prime Minister and Dr. David Owen, Foreign Secretary. Water service manual workers and management resume talks on pay.

FRIDAY — Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Conservative Party leader, addresses West Scotland Conservative area council, City Hall, Glasgow. New construction orders (November).

Thorn ahead £8m but warns on second half

PRE-TAX profits of Thorn Electrical Industries expanded *by £8.1m from £46.2m to £54.3m* for the six months ended September 30, 1978 on total turnover of £640.8m against £567.9m. Profit for the previous year was a record £110.3m on turnover of £1.09bn.

Even in more advantageous circumstances they would not expect results for the full year to show the same rate of increase as shown in the first half.

With the present uncertainties, prospects for the second period are not as good as had been expected. But, they remain confident regarding future years.

Trading conditions in the UK in the first six months showed some improvement over the dull *conditions* of the previous year. All of the product groups returned increased profits, with television rental and domestic appliances contributing the major part of the improvement.

Lighting and engineering continued to operate in fairly flat business conditions, the directors say, and depressed margins again affected the results from consumer electronics.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 17.9p for the first six months compared with 15.2p last time, and the interim dividend, to reduce disparity with the final, is increased from 2.45p to 3.6p net, the maximum for the year being forecast—last year's final was 9p.

	Six months 1978 £m.	†1977 £m.
Turnover	640.8	567.9
Home	476.3	414.2
Oseas (inc. exports)	164.5	153.7
Less inter-div. sales	59.5	55.1
External turnover	581.3	512.8
Trading profit	108.8	93.2
Depreciation	48.2	43.5
Financing charges	3.0	3.5
Profit before tax	54.3	46.2
Tax	28.8	24.9
Payable	15.6	13.2
Deferred	13.2	11.7
Net profit	25.5	21.3
Minorities pref. div.	0.4	0.5
Attributable	25.1	20.8

See Lex

Ashley Ashwood

Sir Richard Cave, chairman of Thorn Electrical Industries.

Boardman suffers £566,000 turnround to £78,000 loss

A £566,000 first-half turnround to a pre-tax loss is reported by **K. O. Boardman International**, manufacturer and importers of men's and women's clothing. However, the directors say the company has made a good start to the second six months.

In the half-year to September 30, 1978 the group slumped to a loss of £77,734, against a pre-tax profit of £488,486, on turnover ahead from £10.39m to £11.2m. Last year the group turned in pre-tax profits of £791,000, against £1.04m.

The half-year deficit includes the losses of William Stembridge Group amounting to £265,919, against a profit of £63,669, and an exceptional debit of £146,581 (nil).

The Board says the loss reported by Stembridge arose through weak and inefficient management, although it is not satisfied, the whole of the loss was made in this half-year.

Major management changes are being made and policy has been changed so that garments are being manufactured only against specific orders.

The *present Board assumed* management control in October after the end of the half-year trading period and is making a comprehensive assessment of the group.

There is a tax credit of £26,858, compared to a charge of £254,013 and after extraordinary debits—nil this time, against £41,250—and minorities, the attributable loss came out at £47,701 (£192,494 profit). The loss per 5p share is shown at 0.28p, against earnings, last time, of 1.08p.

The interim dividend is held at 0.4025p. The final for 1978 was 0.68416p.

● comment

A first half loss in the wake of five unexciting years for pre-tax profits is not the best start for K. O. **Boardman's** new management — major board changes were made in October following the purchase by unlisted textile company Wrengate of a 29.9 per cent stake. To be fair, the first half finished in September although subsequent drastic action has had to be taken in order to reduce stocks. The achilles heel is clearly Stembridge which operates at the fashionable but volatile end of the clothing market and where much of the loss this time is due to write-offs. Boardman, however, is trying to paint the worst possible picture at this stage and hopes to be back in profit by the year end. Activities are split roughly 50-50 between importing and manufacturing and there is even enough confidence for the group to be looking at a couple of private companies in complementary fields. Big problems in the past have been the high gearing and a low stock turn: the latter will now presumably improve while borrowings have apparently continued to decline. Assuming a maintained dividend the prospective yield is eight per cent at 20½p and the market seems to expect a recovery.

135p surprise first distribution from Swan Hunter's remnants

A BETTER than anticipated first distribution of 135p, or more, is *likely to be made to shareholders* of Swan Hunter Group, now in liquidation. When the reconstruction of the company was announced in December last year an initial payment in the region of 130p was indicated and the proposal document allowed for a total cash payout in the range of 130p to 145p.

The joint liquidators says that now the dissenters to the scheme are known to hold only 41,887 shares, part of the £6.3m originally set aside to meet contingencies, can probably be released to enable the first distribution to be increased, subject to any unforeseen claims materialising.

However, they add that they are not aware of any grounds on which members might expect the total cash payout to exceed about 145p.

The exact amount of the first payment, intended to be made to all members, except dissenters, on March 1, cannot be determined until potential claimants have had an opportunity to lodge their claims, if any, they say.

The planned payments, costing £708,093, to holders of the 7¼ per cent unsecured loan stock, *1992-98 are to be* made on January 27.

The final approval needed for the reconstruction scheme to be completed, was given by members at yesterday's extraordinary general meeting. The reconstruction follows the nationalisation of the group's shipbuilding interests for which *£13m compensation was agreed* last July.

Under it the remaining activities of the group have been transferred to a new holding company, **Gosforth Industrial Holdings**, and the group's surplus liquid resources—in December put at £30.2m—are being returned to shareholders.

After providing for actual and contingent liabilities, including the loan stock, £23.9m was expected to be left for the first payment.

In addition to the cash payment shareholders, apart from dissenters, will receive one fully paid share of 10p in Gosforth for each Swan Hunter ordinary £1 share held.

As a result of yesterday's meeting the directors of Gosforth are arranging allotments of Gosforth shares for which listing has been granted. Dealings are expected to begin on Monday.

Mr. W. J. Straker-Smith, chairman of Gosforth, said after the meeting that since July 1, 1978, the various interests, other than Smiths Shiprepairers, which have now been transferred to the new company had traded profitably at levels up to the directors' expectations, and the directors had no reason to believe that the overall position would deteriorate in the next few months.

The position at Smiths were still giving cause for concern and losses were being made. Efforts were being made to improve the situation and they were hopeful that the steps taken would benefit the trading position of that company in 1979.

It would be the policy of the Board to pay out as dividends a substantial proportion of the net earnings of the company in any accounting period. As stated in the scheme document, the directors hoped to pay dividends of 2p net in respect of 1979.

Under current dividend regulations Gosforth would not be subject to dividend restraint for its first two financial years

Sidlaw reduces fall to 15% at full time

A SPURT in performance in the second six months at Sidlaw *Industries*, as expected, regained some of the ground lost at half time when taxable profit slumped from £566,000 to £111,000. The group, whose interests include *the spinning and marketing of* jute, flax and synthetic yarns, finished the year to September 29, 1978, with surplus 15 per cent lower at £1.01m, against £1.19m.

Total sales were £0.73m ahead to £38.89m. The oil services and engineering division remained busy throughout the 12 months and lifted trading profit 28 per *cent to £1.18m but for textiles,* though trading conditions were better in the second half, profit for the year dropped 68 per cent to £312,000. In hardware it was another difficult year and the trading loss rose to £50,000.

A reasonable start for the group in the current year is already being affected by disruption caused by external industrial action, say the directors.

After tax of £516,000 (£604,000), earnings for the year per 50p share slipped from 10.87p to 9.09p. The net total dividend is raised to a maximum permitted 6.7217p (6.01942p) by a final 5.2217p.

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Profit included investment income of £82,000. The operation of Orkney and Shetland Car*riers was closed in July 1978*, and the investment in Seaforth Maritime was sold the following month. Both actions were accounted for in extraordinary *items which amounted to a credit* of £34,000 (£181,000 debits).

Attributable profit emerged higher at £531,000 compared with £402,000, of which £164,000 (£73,000) was retained.

● comment

Sidlaw's 15 per cent profits downturn *for the year includes a sub*stantial improvement in the second half. The recovery is mainly due to a strong performance by the oil service and engineering businesses and a turnround on the textiles side. Trading conditions were more buoyant in the second half, particularly for natural fibre-based fabrics on which Sidlaw has recently spent £2m on rationalising its production. Meanwhile, the company has had little success in solving the problems relating to the integration of the hardware business into new premises, and losses continue to mount. At 86p the shares yield a solid 12.4 per cent while the p/e is almost 9.

British Dredging confident after mid-way recovery

A FIRST-HALF turnround to a pre-tax profit is announced by **British Dredging Company**. The Board says a base has been achieved for profitable trading and the group faces the future with greatly increased confidence.

In the half year to June 30, 1978, the company turned in pre-tax profits of £94,000 on turnover down from £7.92m to £6.04m. In the first half of 1977 it made a pre-tax loss of £153,000 and at the year end a £313,000 loss, against a previous deficit of £1.07m.

In July last year the group reached an agreement with Ready Mixed Concrete. This entailed RMC acquiring 50 per cent of the share capital of British Dredging (Sand and Gravel) and Sand and Gravel acquiring certain dredging vessels and assets from British Dredging group.

In his annual report for 1977 Mr. Bryan Clark, chairman, said that the aggregates division should be firmly on the road to recovery if the RMC deal was approved. He added that the division then accounted for 53 per cent of the turnover and 2 per cent of the loss.

The 1978 half-year profit included £57,000 (£171,000) exceptional credit, being a reduction in the provision for temporary employment subsidy. It also took in associated company profits of £73,000 (£53,000), depreciation of £339,000 (£537,000) and interest of £273,000, against £321,000.

Tax takes £70,000 (£18,000) and after extraordinary items and minorities, attributable profits come out at £10,000, compared with a loss of £128,000.

There is again no interim dividend.

Results due next week

Grand Metropolitans preliminary results provide the main feature on next week's Stock Exchange list. Otherwise, finals are expected from Gestetner, S. and W. Berisford and two ITV contractors, Trident Television and Anglia Television. Dixons Photographic and Magnet and Southerns are due to announce interim profits.

With the brewing season now in full swing, Grand Metropolitan, with finals on Thursday, is the next major company in the sector to announce results. Analysts are expecting a strong advance with pre-tax profits in the £110m-£114m range (£78m). The big improvement has been made possible by the elimination of the bulk of the interest payable on the Convertible. Last year this amounted to about £12m. On the trading side, most activities are expected to contribute to the increase. There are, however, likely to be significant differences within each division with hotels and milk and food, for example, doing well but managed public houses not so *successful. The betting and* gaming side, which showed a big recovery in 1977, may not show quite the same growth this time.

Against a background of sluggish world trade and fierce competition in certain of its markets, Gestetner is expected to announce a preliminary pre-tax profit of around £27m on Tuesday. This is marginally down on the £28.3m earned last year. The big factor effecting the level of profits for a company with roughly 80 per cent of its turnover coming from overseas sales is the relative strength of sterling. Its main competitors are U.S. based, which gives them a decided price advantage. As a result, margins at Gestetner are being squeezed, and the translation of earnings of overseas subsidiaries further reduces the sterling value of profits.

The backbone of Berisford is its *commodity trading division* where the size of the profit is related to general activity levels in world commodity markets plus the relative movement in long and nearby commodity positions. A year ago analysts were pessimistic about activity levels and, consequently, were a little sceptical of Berisford's ability to maintain its enviable *rate of profit growth*. But the strong first half figure and the cautiously bullish tone of company management in conversations during the year has led to an upgrading of estimates from initial figures of around £25m or £26m (last year the actual result was £23.6m) to around £29m.

Television contractors have been enjoying an advertising boom on the back of the sharp increase in consumer spending. However, there have been signs of a slowdown recently, a trend which *should be confirmed next* week after Trident and Anglia report full year profits. Analysts expect Trident to top £9m (£7.36m) after being up from £3.6m to £4.67m at halfway while they anticipate £3.5m (£2.67m) *from* Anglia, which announced a profits increase of 50 per cent to £1.96m in the first six months. In the case of Trident there will be a small loss from the Australian subsidiary (sold in August) but leisure activities, including Windsor Safari Park, should show some improvement. At Anglia, an expansion of programme production will add to costs in the second half.

Magnet and Southerns' has already announced that sales for *the first five months of 1978-79* were 15 per cent better. And since most of this is thought to be volume the company has obviously had an excellent first half. Following last year's little changed but satisfactory outcome (given the difficult conditions) brokers now expect interim pre-tax profits on Wednesday of £8½-£9m (£7.08m). The overriding factor has been buoyant demand for repairs and maintenance which once again should benefit Magnet Joinery. One problem, however, has been the fall in *value of the Canadian dollar:* Canada is one of Magnet's main timber suppliers, so currency changes could lead to stock write downs.

Meanwhile, interim profits from **Dixons Photographic**, which are due on Wednesday, are not expected to be much better than last year's pre-tax figure of £4.8m. Analysts are looking for half time profits of around £5½m, and are projecting a similar turnout in the second half, which suggests an increase of 10 per cent for the year. The recent consumer boom has benefited the chain of photographic stores but on the pharmaceuticals side, Westons Pharmaceuticals has still not shown the growth anticipated *when it was acquired two years* ago. Overseas, the company has not done well and the recent withdrawal from Holland could prove to have been expensive.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
Anglia Television Group	Wednesday	1.8732	2.3033	2.088
Associated Paper Industries	Thursday	1.1	1.804	1.21
Berisford (S. and W.)	Thursday	1.75	2.375	1.925
Brooke Tool Engineering (Holdings)	Wednesday	—	1.0	1.1
Countryside Properties	Wednesday	0.1625	1.3225	1.005
Dewhurst and Partner	Friday	0.25	0.575	0.275
Finlas Holdings	Wednesday	Nil	2.6	7.7
Gestetner Holdings	Tuesday	1.925	2.0244	2.125
Grand Metropolitan	Thursday	1.6	2.6473	1.75
Great Northern Investment Trust	Monday	1.15	2.72	1.29
Henlys	Wednesday	2.0	4.5900	3.0
Lincroft Kilgour Group	Thursday	1.32	2.14	1.5
Lookers	Wednesday	0.9075	1.5732	0.9982
Mackinnon of Scotland	Thursday	—	1.65	—
McMullen and Sons	Tuesday	—	—	—
Meggitt Holdings	Monday	0.195	0.2	0.2211
Norfolk Capital Group	Monday	0.2	0.4	0.3
Raeburn Investment Trust	Thursday	1.1	2.6	1.25
Scottish American Investment Company	Wednesday	0.8	1.7	0.9
SGB Group	Tuesday	2.5	2.754	2.75
Spencer Clark Metal Industries	Tuesday	0.96	1.43	0.96
Trident Television	Tuesday	0.848	1.981	0.932
United Guarantee (Holdings)	Thursday	—	0.181	—
United States and General Tst. Corpn.	Wednesday	1.6	4.34	1.75
Warner Estate Holdings	Thursday	1.3	1.3633	1.4
Whatlings	Wednesday	0.9	1.668	0.9
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Allied Colloids Group	Tuesday	0.577	1.117	
Amber Day Holdings	Wednesday	0.7331	1.4287	
City of Aberdeen Land Association	Wednesday	1.0	3.52	
Cray Electronics	Friday	0.51	0.9561	
Denbyware	Thursday	2.1125	3.307	
Dixons Photographic	Thursday	0.9075	1.51	
Ellis and Everard	Tuesday	2.0	2.0	
Francis (G. R.) Group	Thursday	—	3.95	
Geifer (A. and J.)	Thursday	1.2	1.654	
Group Investors	Tuesday	0.72	1.18	
Hales Properties	Tuesday	0.8	1.6973	
Highgate Optical and Industrial	Monday	0.627	1.801	
Howard Shuttering (Holdings)	Monday	0.85	0.88	
Jones, Stroud (Holdings)	Thursday	1.6	3.067	
London and Montrose Investment Trust	Thursday	1.25	4.651	
Magnet and Southerns	Wednesday	2.3333	3.6212	
Property Security Investment Trust	Tuesday	0.5	0.8933	
Provincial Cities Trust	Thursday	0.58	0.9	
Regional Properties	Monday	0.5	0.6	
Restmor Group	Monday	0.275	1.5232	
Saville Gordon (J.) Group	Wednesday	0.4	1.2255	
Stock Conversion and Investment Trust	Wednesday	0.89	1.0217	
Wellman Engineering Corporation	Thursday	1.15	1.246	
Western Board Mills	Tuesday	1.2	2.5	
INTERIM FIGURES				
Ferguson Industrial Holdings	Friday†			
Leigh Mills Company	Wednesday			
Melody Mills	Wednesday			
Zetters Group	Tuesday			

* Dividends shown net pence per share and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † Second interim. ‡ Third-quarter figures.

Grange Tst. climbs to £440,000

AFTER A further improvement in the second half pre-tax profits of Grange Trust were pushed up from £378,885 to £439,823 in the year to November 30, 1978.

The final dividend of 1.54p net raises the total from 2.1p to 2.4p. Stated earnings per 25p ordinary share are up from 2.36p to 2.81p and the net asset value from 98.6p to 104p.

£750m 'tap' stock issue

The Bank of England yesterday announced the issue for cash of a further tranche of £750m of 12 per cent Treasury Loan 1983 at £97.25 per cent. It will be repaid at par on March 17, 1983.

A further £200m of the loan has been reserved for the National Debt Commissioners for public funds under their management.

Interest on the loan is payable half-yearly on March 17 and September 17. The first payment, on September 17, 1979, will be at the rate of £7.989 per £100 nominal.

The loan is payable in full on application.

BIDS AND DEALS

FMC selling poultry side to Sun Valley for cash

Britain's biggest meat processing and distribution concern, **FMC**, is to raise up to £2.85m through the sale of its poultry division to Sun Valley Poultry—50 per cent owned by the Vesty meat and shipping group.

FMC—which is more than 70 per cent owned by the National Farmers Union—says that the cash will immediately reduce its borrowings, generating an interest saving of around £150,000 a year.

Sun Valley has agreed to pay £2.3m for FMC's fresh and frozen chicken, and frozen turkey business. In addition it will buy certain poultry stocks for up to a further £550,000.

Last year FMC's poultry division generated pre-tax profits of £95,000. Sun Valley says that the acquisition will create a business generating turnover of around £50m a year.

Currently Sun Valley's turnover is said to be running at around £40m a year and pre-tax profits at around £2m. The group's financial year ends on January 30.

After a first half loss FMC pre-tax profits in the year to April 29, 1978 slumped to £929,000 against £3.1m in 1976-77. However, in the first half of the current year FMC showed a £609,000 profit.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Grange Tst.	1.54	Mar. 2	1.32	2.4	2.1
K. O. Boardman int.	0.4	Feb. 19	0.4	—	1.09
Sidlaw Industries	5.22	Mar. 15	4.52	6.72	6.02
Thorn Elect. int.	3.6‡	Mar. 2	2.45	—	11.45

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.
* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ Increased to reduce disparity.

SIME PLANS TO EXPAND COCOA INTEREST

While Sime Darby is negotiating in London to acquire Guthrie Corporation, it is also seeking to expand its cocoa interests.

A spokesman said yesterday that Sime is planning to buy 10,000 acres of land in Sabah for planting mainly with cocoa. The move, if it takes place, would be Sime's first into East Malaysian plantations and would represent a major extension of its cocoa acreage.

The group's cocoa output totalled 441,000 lb in the year ended June 30, 1978.

The Board of Sime Darby took no decisions regarding the approach to Guthrie requiring fresh announcements at its monthly Board meeting yesterday.

Sime has not yet said it will definitely be making an offer.

A. G. STANLEY

A. G. Stanley, the home decorating retail concern, has not ruled out the possibility of making a takeover bid for **Morris and Blakey Wall Papers**, in which it has a 16 per cent stake.

A spokesman for Stanley said yesterday that the stake represented a sound investment but agreed there was a possibility that *this could provide a spring*board for a full takeover bid.

However, Stanley says that it would first have to absorb the *effects of its recent* £2½m deal with the Berger paints group by which it acquired a chain of almost 100 shops—taking its total number of retail outlets to 217. Morris and Blakey ordinary shares closed yesterday 8p up at 148p, and the "A" ordinary shares up 9p to 122p.

Grovewood buys £3m Duple stake

Grovewood Securities—part of Eagle Star Insurance and owner of Brands Hatch racing circuit—has paid almost £3m for a 29.5 per cent stake in Duple, the coachbuilders, engineering and plastics concern.

Mr. John Danny, Grovewood's chairman, says this is not a prelude to a takeover bid.

"We think this is a good company but we have no intention of lifting our stake above 30 per cent—at which point, under City Takeover Panel rules, we would have to launch a full-scale bid.

The Duple shares were acquired from Old Court, the estate of Mrs. Mary M. Ford and Mr. David Blank.

NO PROBES

The proposed mergers between Letraset International and Stanley Gibbons International, Lead Industries and A. J. Oster Company, and Tesco Stores (Holdings) and 3 Guys are not being referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Willis Faber to make major statement next week

BY JOHN MOORE

Top Lloyd's of London insurance broker Willis Faber is to make an announcement on Tuesday, which is widely expected to concern the group's relationship with one of the big three U.S. insurance brokers, Johnson and Higgins.

On the London stock exchange Willis Faber's shares rose 7p to 240p valuing the group at around £98m.

Johnson and Higgins is the largest non-quoted insurance broker in the U.S. Willis Faber *and Johnson and Higgins have* had a commercial relationship which has been in existence for many years. It is understood to be so close in the marine and aviation classes of insurance business that Willis Faber handles no business in these classes from other U.S. brokers.

In its last financial year John*son and Higgins earned gross* revenues of $215m (in 1977). It has 67 offices, and 4,700 employees.

Next week's announcement from Willis comes in a year of much hectic activity in the UK insurance broking sector.

Last September C. T. Bowring announced that talks were underway with Marsh and McLennan, the number one broker in the U.S., which could lead to a pooling of their insurance interests. And in November, Sedgwick Forbes and Bland Payne announced merger plans and an eventual link-up with Alexander and Alexander of the U.S.

ELSWICK-HOPPER

Elswick-Hopper, the Humber-based light engineering company, is buying **E. W. Downs and Son**, a producer of potato handling and grading equipment, in a deal worth £325,000.

The purchase is to be made through the issue of 1,969,697 new ordinary shares in Elswick.

At the end of its last financial year—March 31, 1978—Downs reported profits before tax and excluding extraordinary items, of £43,216. Net assets of Downs stood at £365,000.

As part of the deal the principal shareholder of Downs, Mr. Donald Roger Brown, is to remain managing director and is entering into a service agreement with the company for five years at a salary of £7,000 per annum.

BURNETT AND HALLAMSHIRE BUYS LOWES

Open-cast mining group, **Burnett and Hallamshire**, is set to double its oil distribution business with the acquisition of **Lowes Oil** which is based mainly in the Midlands and the South West.

Burnett has agreed to pay an initial £750,000 cash for Lowes and its associate company UK Petroleum Distributors. A further sum of up to £750,000 will be paid depending upon Lowes profit performance in the two years to March 31, 1981.

As part of the deal Burnett will be acquiring Lowes oil terminal at Avonmouth which it acquired on a 10-year lease just over two years ago.

Combined pre-tax profits of Lowes and UK Petroleum for the year ending March 31, 1978, was just over £52,000.

ROTAFLEX

The offers by **Rotaflex** for the ordinary and preference capital of **Linolite** have been declared unconditional. Acceptances have been received in respect of 99.5 per cent of the ordinary and 92.7 per cent of the preference.

Rotaflex intends to acquire compulsorily the outstanding shares, but meanwhile the offers remain open.

NEW THROGMORTON

The directors of **New Throgmorton Trust** announce that under the terms of the trust deed and the supplemental instrument constituting the capital loan stock, the dealing subsidiary may accept by tender 20 per cent of the outstanding stock (currently £1.79m *nominal*), amounting to £358,487 nominal.

ELLIS MECHANICAL BUYS TYLIN CAE

Ellis Mechanical Services, heating, ventilating and air conditioning group, has purchased **Tylin CAE** from Tate and Lyle Refineries.

Tylin, like Ellis, are specialists in environmental engineering but operate mainly in the Midlands and South of England. Established 10 years ago it has a turnover of £2.5m and employs 150 people.

Under the terms of the purchase, Ellis has also acquired a major shareholding in B. L. Thermo Graphic Surveys and their subsidiaries Durotan (GB).

BEMROSE AMALGAMATES UK OPERATIONS

Bemrose Corporation, the printing, packaging and publishing group, has brought together all its British operating companies to form a single subsidiary, Bemrose UK.

The reorganisation has been done to bring the corporate structure of the group into line with the management structure, said Mr. Gordon Hay, finance director, yesterday. The group has been run in four main divisions for some years now: printing, flexible packaging and engraving, publishing and cartons.

MYDDLETON HOTELS

Acceptances of Ladbroke Group's offer for Myddleton Hotels preference shares have been received in respect of 97,710 shares (over 81 per cent), and the offer is now unconditional.

The ordinary offer, already unconditional, has been accepted in respect of 3,246,273 shares (over 91 per cent). Ladbroke now owns over 93 per cent of the ordinary.

The balance will be acquired compulsorily where appropriate.

MACKINTOSH PREF.

The scheme of arrangement for the acquisition of Rowntree Mackintosh for the outstanding preference stock of John Mackintosh and Sons has been approved by the required majorities of preference holders.

The scheme is expected to come before the High Court for approval within the next month and to become effective on or about *February 9*.

SHARE STAKES

Toye and Co.—J. B. Hayward and Son (Medal Specialists) has increased holding and now beneficial holder of 311,000 ordinary shares (13.83 per cent).

Moss Engineering Group—Mr. E. Cars, chairman, has increased his holding to 50,365 ordinary shares.

Royco Group—Mr. R. H. Strudwick, director, has purchased 50,000 ordinary shares.

English Card Clothing Co.—Carclo Engineering Group has made further purchases of ordinary shares taking holding from 22.9 per cent to 23.8 per cent.

Rivington Reed—Dr. John Blackburn, chief executive, has bought 50,000 ordinary shares increasing his holding to 550,000. He has disposed of his rights to acquire 125,000 convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares.

James Beattie—Mrs. I. M. B. Murchie, director, has sold further 40,000 "A" ordinary restricted voting shares.

W. Williams and Sons (Hldgs): The Cliff Hotel (GWBERT) has sold 10,000 shares. Mr. T. J. Lowe, a director, of the Cliff Hotel (GWBERT) has sold 15,033 shares.

Cowan de Groot: H. D. Cowan, a director, has sold 31,634 preference shares, not ordinary shares as reported.

Fairview Estates—Mr. K. J. Oliver, a director, has disposed of 10,000 ordinary shares.

De Vere Hotels and Restaurants: Mr. L. Muller and Mr. A. T. W. Harvey have sold 500,000 ordinary shares out of their joint holding. Following this sale Mr. Muller's personal holding together with the joint holding with Mr. A. T. W. Harvey, represents some 52 per cent of the share capital.

H. Samuel: Mr. J. N. Lindop has sold 30,000 "A" ordinary shares from a non-beneficial holding.

British American and General Trust—Standard Life Assurance has bought 275,000 shares.

Kuala Selangor Rubber Company—Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad has reduced its interest from 14.42 per cent to 13.45 per cent.

Alexander Howden Group—A. D. Shead, director, on December 28 sold 70,000 shares at 130p.

Royco Group—R. H. Strudwick, director, has bought 50,000 shares at 37p.

Freemans (London SW9)—R. S. Chapman, director, has reduced his beneficial interests by 160,000 shares and his non-beneficial interests by 318,616.

Culter Guard Bridge Holdings—Security growth has now become interested in 407,000 shares (5.4 per cent).

Ratners (Jewellers)—Scottish Amicable Life Assurance holds 1.34m shares (7.4 per cent).

Rediffusion Ltd.—Philips Electronic and Assoc. Industries on January 4 increased shareholding to 8,418,000 shares, representing just over 10 per cent of the ordinary voting capital—Philips previously had a 9 per cent stake.

Bernard Wardle—Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust has acquired a further 487,600 shares bringing total holding to 3,835,600 (21.4 per cent).

Wearra Group—A. J. Harris, director, has sold 100,000 shares at 33½p cumulative dividend and 110,000 at 33p ex dividend. All these were held as trustee without beneficial interest.

Second City Properties—Mr. G. L. Joberns has sold 60,000 ordinary shares.

PMA Holdings—N. M. Meredith, a director, has acquired a further 25,000 ordinary shares bringing total holding to 149,500.

Amalgamated Stores—Mr. C. V. Rowe has sold 44,000 ordinary shares and is now interested in 56,000.

United Scientific Holdings—On January 10, the family interests of Mr. D. S. Fraser, a director, sold 36,000 ordinary shares. He retains 50,000 shares.

NEW LIFE BUSINESS

Equitable Life's substantial rise: self-employed success

Another record year for new life business is reported by Equitable Life Assurance Society, the oldest mutual life company in the world. New annual premiums in 1978 increased by 83 per cent from £9.96m to £18.2m. Single premium business was even more buoyant advancing from £5.8m to £12.9m, a rise of 122 per cent.

The company, a leader in the field of self-employed pensions, had another successful year. New annual premiums jumped by nearly 60 per cent from £3.9m in 1977 to £6.2m. Ordinary life and endowment business was good with new annual premiums 47 per cent higher at £2.2m compared with £1.5m in 1977. Sales of the flexible endowment policy continued buoyant.

But it was on the company pension side that the Equitable recorded its best sales. This sector was boosted by the start last April of the new State pension scheme. New annual premiums from group pensions nearly tripled to £4.9m from £1.7m in 1977, while on schemes for directors and executives annual premiums almost doubled from £2.3m to £4.4m.

Much of the growth in group pensions came from additional voluntary pension arrangements, which enables employees to add to existing pension arrangements on a voluntary basis in a tax efficient manner.

Pensions played a dominant role in the growth of single premiums. In addition to executive schemes moving ahead, the company received considerable amounts in transfer values from group schemes being wound up. The Equitable is one of the very few life companies that does not pay commission on its business. It is now receiving considerable pensions business from the pension consultant divisions of insurance brokers, who are now charging fees for their services instead of receiving commission.

Record new business last year is reported by Royal London Mutual Insurance Society with new annual premiums rising by 21 per cent from £8m to £9.7m. Single premiums and annuity considerations amounted to £282,000 compared with £191,000 in 1977. Net new sums assured were 8 per cent higher at £213m compared with £197m.

In the ordinary branch, new annual premiums were 34 per cent higher at £4.2m against £3.1m in the previous year. The newly launched self-employed pensions contracts was proving successful, but most of the growth came from the sales of ordinary with-profit contracts. The industrial branch showed lower growth last year advancing 13 per cent from £4.9m to £5.5m.

New annual premium income of the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society rose by 12 per cent in 1978 from £8.7m to £9.8m with new sums assured 9 per cent higher at £170.8m compared with £157.1m. In the ordinary branch, new annual premiums increased by 40 per cent from £1.39m to £1.95m, but growth in the industrial branch was only 7 per cent at £7.85m against £7.34m.

Record premium income for 1978 is reported by the Wesleyan and General Assurance Society amounting to £3.53m compared with £2.73m in 1977—a rise of 29 per cent. New sums assured were 33 per cent higher at £76m against £58m. New annual premiums in the ordinary branch improved by 44 per cent from £854,000 to £1.23m, but by only 22 per cent in the industrial branch from £1.88m to £2.3m. New annual premiums on self-employed pensions were 16 per cent higher at £126,000. Gross premium income in the general branch rose by 15 per cent to £3.7m.

Strong growth in group permanent health insurance business last year is reported by The National Employers Life Group. The company is a leader in this type of employee benefit contract and new annual premiums in 1978 rose by 58 per cent to £2.12m, from £1.34m. Business in individual permanent health contracts was also good with new annual premiums of £410,000 compared with £260,000 in 1977.

Overall new annual premiums for long-term business improved by 54 per cent from £6.29m to £9.69m. But single premiums declined slightly on the year from £3.1m to £2.79m. The company's unit-linked business, mostly managed pension funds, had a good year with £3.92m of new premiums.

Abbey Life Assurance Company, a leading linked life company, reports that its total premium income in 1978 passed the £100m mark for the first time, amounting to £105m against £77.7m in 1977. Of this total, £68.7m came from regular premium contracts and £36.3m from single premiums.

A record amount of new regular premiums is reported for 1978 by the company, improving by 30 per cent from £17.9m to £23.5m. Life business rose by 34 per cent from £5.2m to £7m, self-employed pensions by 35 per cent from £5.4m to £7.3m and executive pensions by 26 per cent from £7.3m to £9.2m. Investment was made mainly in the property and managed funds.

Total single premium sales advanced by 76 per cent from £20.6m to £36.3m, with sales of unit-linked bonds being particularly active. These rose by 90 per cent from £13.9m to £26.5m. Most of the investment was made into the property fund—the largest property bond fund among life companies. Sales of guaranteed bonds were up 69 per cent from £5.8m to £9.8m boosted by the popularity of the peta plan—a scheme which the 1978 Budget stopped.

Substantial growth in life business last year was achieved by the Guardian Royal Exchange Group, with total world-wide new annual premiums advancing by 34 per cent from £22.4m to £30.1m. Single premium, however, remained virtually unchanged at £14.6m. New sums assured on world-wide business were 45 per cent higher at the new record level of £2.9bn against £2bn in 1977. New annuities per annum also reached record levels increasing 38 per cent to £61m from £44m.

Growth in the UK and Republic of Ireland last year was well spread over all the main classes of business. New annual premiums for group pensions business, boosted by the start of the new State pension scheme, improved by nearly 50 per cent to £10.4m. New annual premiums for individual life and pensions business advanced by 40 per cent to £10.5m. Ordinary life business improved by 37 per cent with low cost endowment contracts used to repay mortgages being buoyant. Individual pension business advanced by 60 per cent, most of this growth coming from executive pension schemes.

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Series		Jan. Vol.	Jan. Last	April Vol.	April Last	July Vol.	July Last	Stock
ABN	F.340	2	50	—	—	—	—	F.359
ABA	F.380	—	—	12	9.80	—	—	"
ABA	F.390	—	—	55	4.90	—	—	"
AKZ	F.25	—	—	—	—	11	5.90	F.32.40
AKZ	F.27.50	30	3.20	5	5	—	—	"
AKZ	F.30	64	2.70	58	4	42	5	"
AKZ	F.32.50	255	0.80	92	2.80	70	3.50	"
AKZ	F.35	—	—	18	1.20	155	2.10	"
ARB	F.75.90	—	—	2	5.10	—	—	F.77.30
CSF	F.380	—	—	7	52.30	7	61.20	F.418.30
CSF	F.400	—	—	6	35	—	—	"
CSF	F.440	—	—	5	14.90	5	24	"
EK	$50	6	13	—	—	—	—	$52⅞
EK	$60	31	3	5	[illegible]	—	—	"
FNC	$25	14	1¼	—	—	—	—	$25⅜
GM	$50	—	—	5	7⅛	—	—	$56⅜
GOS	F.140	—	—	6	25.10	—	—	F.158.50
GOS	F.150	—	—	2	14.30	3	17.40	"
GOS	F.160	—	—	7	7.80	—	—	"
HO	F.32.50	—	—	—	—	5	5.50	F.34.50
HO	F.35	—	—	15	2.70	15	4.30	"
HO	F.40	—	—	1	1	61	2.10	"
IMB	$280	16	35	—	—	—	—	$312¼
IBM	$300	58	15¼	—	—	10	30¼	"
IBM	$320	—	—	—	—	4	19⅞	"
KLM	F.120	59	6.50	16	9.50	4	13	F.127
KLM	F.130	75	0.70	45	6	22	10	"
KLM	F.133.30	17	0.70	—	—	—	—	"
KLM	F.140	—	—	4	2.50	5	5.70	"
NN	F.106.90	17	5.50	—	—	—	—	F.111.70
NN	F.110	—	—	20	7	—	—	"
NN	F.120	—	—	15	2.30	—	—	"
PHI	F.22.50	20	3	4	3.80	1	4.50	F.25.50
PHI	F.25	151	0.80	61	2	39	2.30	"
PHI	F.27.50	46	0.10	18	0.85	90	1.30	"
PHI	F.30	—	—	5	0.40	—	—	"
PRD	$60	7	5⅛	5	8¼	—	—	$65⅝
PSA	F.460	—	—	7	15.50	—	—	F.451
PSA	F.500	—	—	5	0.80	—	—	"
RD	F.120	6	8.60	12	11	5	11.80	F.127.80
RD	F.130	159	0.40	96	5.60	99	4.80	"
RD	F.140	—	—	1	1	—	—	"
S	$20	—	—	1	¼	—	—	$21½
UNI	F.120	27	5.50	18	8	—	—	F.125.50
UNI	F.130	17	0.30	5	2.20	8	3.60	"
XON	$45	4	5¼	2	5¼	—	—	$49½
XON	$50	1	¼	—	—	—	—	"
XRX	$50	5	10	4	12	—	—	$61⅛
XRX	$60	4	1⅛	6	4¼	—	—	"
		Feb.		May		August		
BA	$60	—	—	10	19	—	—	$78
BA	$70	11	9	2	13½	—	—	"
BA	$80	2	4¼	5	8½	1	10½	"
OXY	$15	—	—	20	3⅞	—	—	$18¼
OXY	$20	—	—	5	⅛	—	—	"
SLB	$100	2	4	—	—	—	—	$98½
		Dec.		March		June		
SB	$20	—	—	—	—	4	5¼	$21½
TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS						2594		

Bonus declarations

Equitable Life Assurance Society has announced a higher rate of interim reversionary bonus in respect of its with-profits pensions business. The new rate is £7 per cent per annum of the basic benefit plus attaching bonuses compared with the previous rate of £6.50 per cent.

This new rate applies to self-employed pensions, individual plans for company directors, executives and other employees and to group pension plans, including voluntary contribution plans.

This improvement in bonus rate should confirm the company as a market leader in the field of self-employed pensions.

Interim bonus rates on individual life and endowment with-profit business remain unchanged, as do rates on all other with-profit businesses. The company operates a triennial bonus system and the next declaration will be made to cover the three years ending December 31, 1979.

The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society has announced slight improvements this year on its special final bonus rates payable on death or maturity claims. The rate of bonus will be £1.50 per cent of the sum assured and attaching bonuses for each year prior to 1975 with maximum payment of £60 per cent. The previous maximum was £58.50 per cent.

The company also operates a triennial bonus system with the next declaration being made for the three years to December 31, 1980. The interim rates of reversionary bonus remain unchanged.

Crystalate forecasts sharp growth to over £1m

Record taxable profit in excess of £1m is forecast for Crystalate (Holdings) in the current year, by Mr. John Leworthy, the chairman.

The re-organisation at Ebonestos and Greendale which were acquired last year, are progressing satisfactorily and these companies are expected to make a more positive contribution in 1978-79. Other companies in the group are also expected to improve their performance and most have started the year with record order books, he says.

On sales of £8.56m (£5.16m) the group enhanced profit from £322,000 to £617,000 for the year to September 30, 1978—as reported December 16. The net dividend is 0.737p (0.66p).

Adjusted for inflation the directors estimate that profit would be cut to £482,000 by £105,000 additional depreciation £112,000 extra cost of sales less a £82,000 gearing credit.

Turnover and trading profit of £736,000 (£617,000) analysed by activities shows, with £000s omitted: plastics moulding £3,523 (£2,442) and £31 (£130); electronics £4,807 (£2,574) and £686 (£498); engineering £231 (£143) and £6 (£18 loss); and central administration and property profit £13 (£7).

A professional valuation at year end of freehold and leasehold land and buildings revealed a £702,000 surplus over the book value of £841,000.

National & Commercial name change

To meet the requirements of impending legislation the directors of National and Commercial Banking Group are planning to change the company's name.

A Bill at present before Parliament will restrict the use of the words "bank" or "banking" in the names of financial institutions to concerns which are duly authorised and carry out banking business.

In the case of bank holding companies, like National and Commercial, which are not themselves directly engaged in banking, the directors understand that the group name should closely identify with the subsidiary operating bank or banks.

Providing it satisfies the ultimate legislation the directors propose that National and Commercial—whose subsidiaries include the Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams and Glyn's Bank—be renamed The Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and mergers

With general investment enthusiasm dampened by the threat of a complete shutdown of industry, stock markets were featured last week by buying directed at likely bid targets.

Although there is a total of £400m cash bids outstanding and in prospect, only one new name is entered in this week's table. This is Guthrie Corporation which is in talks with Sime Darby following the latter's mooted 425p per share bid.

The move comes at a time when Guthrie's attempted diversification into non-plantation activities has floundered, but with a strong recovery in profits under way and a revaluation of assets already prepared, the approach can expect a spirited opposition. Sime has stated that the proposed merger has nothing to do with the British or Malaysian Governments, contrary to the widely held view that Malaysia is attempting to acquire control of plantations in its country. Sime and Guthrie both have extensive plantation and rubber processing interests.

Pilkington Brothers' manufacturing expertise and a guarantee of Australian-based research and development has swayed the Australian authorities into giving the go-ahead to Pilkington's agreed £23.8m cash offer for Sola Holdings, manufacturers of plastic lenses and sunglasses. The bid was previously blocked on the grounds that it did not allow for local ownership.

Hawthorn Leslie has acquired further shares in loss-making screws and industrial fasteners manufacturer Anglo-Swiss Holdings, taking its stake to 11.1 per cent and fuelling speculation that Hawthorn may launch a counter to Armstrong Equipment's £1.4m cash offer or, at least, force an improved bid.

The board of Averys, the weighing machines and measuring concern, believing the company's future would best be served by remaining independent, has rejected the possible 225p per share cash bid by General Electric. However, the latter might well approach Averys' shareholders direct with a higher offer.

Foster Brothers Clothing, the menswear retailer, is buying non-quoted camping and leisurewear traders Millets of Bristol for £2.9m in cash and shares.

Dealings in Westminster Property were suspended pending an announcement concerning agreed merger terms with an unquoted British company.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder	Final Acc'tce date
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.						
Alginate	385*	368	309††	21.01	Merck	—
Anglo Swiss	54†	64½	29††	1.40	Armstrong Eq.	—
Bambergers	76§§	76	88	7.56	Intl. Timber	—
City Hotels	194§§	186	126††	5.82	Comfort Intl.	—
English Property	37*	39	36½	23.35	Wereldhave	—
Gibbons (Stanley)	304‡§§	290	228††	18.67	Letraset	13/1
Guthrie	425*	435	345	122.1	Sime Darby	—
Haggas (John)	206‡§§	206	181	25.74	Dawson Intl.	—
Jhnsn. Richards Tiles	134§§	138	109	29.3	Norcros	—
Kean & Scott	10*	29	12	0.04	Mr. Mostyn Levein	—
Leisure Caravans	143*	138	112½††	19.9	Rank Org.	—
Peerage of Birmingham	69§§	67	54††	2.26	Ferguson Industl. Holdings	—
Sabah Timber	77§§	78	34	13.35	Harrisons & Crosfield	—
Tridant Group Printers	100*	100	84	4.38	Argus Press	29/11
Warne Wright & Rowland	68§§	64	53	6.98	B. Priest	—
Warwick Eng.	41*	41	40	2.46	Mr. N. Gidney	—
Westinghse. Brake	95†	90	62	40.5	Hwkr. Siddly.	—

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ¶ Combined market capitalisation. || Date on which scheme is expected to become operative. ** Based on 11/1/79. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. ¶¶ Based on 12/1/79.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Barr (A. G.)	Oct.	2,010	(1,180)	17.0	(8.8)	2.41	(2.18)
Bett Bros.	Aug.	2,040	(2,860)	6.3	(9.1)	1.9	(1.7)
Caplan Profile	Aug.	1,110	(653)	32.2	(15.4)	5.35	(4.79)
Eng. China Clays	Sept.	24,482	(30,477)	10.7	(13.9)	3.97	(3.58)
Eurotherm Intl.	Oct.	2,650	(1,890)	14.1	(9.7)	2.68	(—)
F.N.F.C.	Oct.	17,360	(4,870)L	14.5	(—)	Nil	(Nil)
Hickson & Welch	Sept.	8,116	(10,135)	38.0	(38.0)	3.86	(3.46)
Ind. Newspapers	Dec.	3,230	(2,090)	25.9	(16.0)	11.06	(6.5)
Kenning Motor	Sept.	8,270	(7,090)	20.4	(22.8)	4.63	(4.15)
Leys Foundries	Sept.	1,190	(1,680)	7.1	(4.8)	4.3	(4.3)
M & G Group	Sept.	3,091	(1,538)	20.2	(9.5)	3.86	(3.46)
McCorquodale	Sept.	4,123	(3,032)	49.6	(43.3)	15.9	(14.2)
Midland Inds.	Sept.	2,114	(1,801)	16.0	(13.6)	1.16	(0.99)
Pleasurama	Sept.	1,984	(1,504)	14.0	(10.3)	2.4	(2.02)
Singlo	Mar.	905	(922)	1.7	(4.7)	1.72	(0.86)
Westland Aircraft	Sept.	2,860L	(5,840)	—	(5.8)	1.0	(3.18)
Stakis (Reo)	Oct.	2,775	(1,747)	5.1	(3.6)	1.0†	(0.691)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
Abbey	Oct.	1,470	(924)	1.08	(0.81)
AGB Research	Oct.	970	(533)	1.4	(0.82)
Astra Indl.	Oct.	426	(441)	0.4	(0.36)
Black (Peter)	Oct.	1,180	(994)	2.62	(2.42)
British Cinemas	July	25	(20)	—	(—)
Brown & Tawse	Sept.	2,030	(1,620)	1.3	(1.18)
Butterfield-H'vey.	Sept.	1,558	(1,136)	1.3	(1.12)
ERF Hldgs.	Oct.	1,610	(1,560)	1.84	(Nil)
Gordon & Gotch	Sept.	502	(508)	2.98	(2.64)
Halma	Sept.	510	(404)	0.53	(0.53)
Henderson-Kenton	Sept.	607	(252)	1.0	(1.0)
Heron Motor Grp.	Sept.	1,800	(1,430)	2.0	(1.7)
Hogg Robinson	Sept.	3,370	(3,210)	2.7	(2.42)
Hollas Group	Sept.	510	(404)	0.53	(0.53)
Johnson-Richards	Sept.	3,403	(2,542)	1.25	(0.82)
Lynton (Hldgs.)	Sept.	468	(556)	1.2	(1.2)
Negretti & Z'mbra	Sept.	21	(81)	Nil	(Nil)
Ratners (Jwllrs.)	Oct.	535	(421)	0.46	(0.23)
Raybeck	Oct.	3,481	(2,757)	1.13	(1.01)
RFD Group	Sept.	1,050	(1,457)	0.7	(0.6)
Stroud Riley	Sept.	222	(201)	0.5	(0.5)
Vita-Tex	Oct.	351	(207)	1.6	(1.2)
Wigfall (Henry)	Oct.	307	(353)L	3.0	(3.0)

(Figures in parentheses for corresponding period)
Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated.
* Adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † Including special dividend due to change in tax rate. L Loss.

Scrip Issue

Heron Motor Group: Three-for-two.

Rights Issues

Chepstow Racecourse: One £1 5 per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock for one ordinary share at par.

Haslemere Estates: One-for-five at 220p.

OIL AND GAS NEWS

North American search gathers pace

Petroleum Information Corporation, a Denver-based company, which follows U.S. drilling on a daily basis and provides a number of technical and support services to the petroleum industry and related businesses, says that a total of 48,709 oil and gas exploration wells were drilled in the United States during 1978—a rise of 10.7 per cent from the 44,019 wells drilled in 1977.

Of the 1978 total 19,761 wells were completed as oil producers, while 12,518 were new gas wells and 16,430 were proved to be dry. The number of oil producing wells rose by 5 per cent in 1978 and gas producing wells showed a 19 per cent increase.

In Canada the past year has been a period of unprecedented activity for the petroleum industry, according to F. E. Baugh, chairman of the Board of governors of the Canadian Petroleum Association.

More than C$10bn was spent by the petroleum industry in 1978, compared with C$8.8bn. in 1977. The number of exploration and development wells drilled in 1978 was 8,900 against 6,200 in 1977. The West Pembina oil field was hailed by Mr. Baugh, as "the most significant oil discovery in Alberta in the past decade."

As if to emphasise Mr. Baugh's assertion, Canada-Cities Services says that it has discovered oil in the West Pembina area at a depth of 8,670 feet. The company's CS-Amoco-11-25 well tested oil at a rate of 2,000 barrels a day. The well is owned as to 50 per cent each by Canada-Cities Services, a unit of Cities Services, and Amoco Canada Petroleum.

The well, which was started in October, is located about 200 miles northwest of Calgary and was described by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, exploration vice-president of Canada-Cities Services, as "a significant discovery."

The significance of the region as a potential oil producer becomes more obvious month by month. On Tuesday Getty Oil (Canada) and BP Canada announced that an exploration well in the area about 85 miles south-west of Edmonton flowed at a rate of 3,570 barrels of low sulphur oil per day during a 50 minute open hole drill-stem test conducted in the Nisku formation between 9,019 and 9,295 ft.

Getty Oil (Canada), a unit of Getty Oil, and BP Canada each hold 50 per cent of the well. Getty Oil (Canada), the operator of the well, plans to drill another exploratory well approximately three miles north-east of the discovery.

Other recent discoveries in the West Pembina area include the Chevron-Huber well, which produced 800 barrels of oil a day during testing and the Chevron-Norcen PL 5-6-49-12-W5M well which flowed high gravity crude oil at rates up to 4,200 barrels per day during production tests from the Nisku formation.

Chevron made the original Pembina discovery in April 1977 and over 30 discoveries of oil and five gas finds have been made since then.

Further disappointing news from the Baltimore Canyon exploration area comes with a statement from Mobil Oil and its partners which says that the consortium are plugging and abandoning an exploratory well on Block 544 after tests indicated no significant quantities of hydrocarbons.

The well, which commenced drilling on June 23, reached a total depth of 17,449 ft. Alex H. Massad, President of Mobil's exploration and producing division, said the company was disappointed but not discouraged over results of its first well in the area.

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

LAGANVALE ESTATE—Results for year to April 30, 1978, already known. Group fixed assets £539,243 (£880,437). Net current liabilities £495,421 (£920,142). Meeting, 1a Queen's Gate, S.W., January 23 at 11 am.

J. A. DEVENISH AND COMPANY (brewers)—Results for year ended September 29, 1978 already reported. Group fixed assets, £7.49m (£6.39m). Net current assets £587,550 (£849,801). Whitbread Investment Company holds 25.61 per cent of capital and Outwich Investment Trust, 5.43 per cent. Meeting, Weymouth January 24, at 12.30 pm.

L. B. HOLLIDAY (HOLDINGS)—It is expected that accounts for year to June 30, 1978, of the company and subsidiary L. B. Holliday and Co. will be available at end of February.

NEW THROGMORTON TRUST—Net asset value per £ of capital loan stock 160.72p therefore the tender price is 144.65p.

DOLOI TEA HOLDINGS—Approximate crop for 1978 season 305,000 kgs. (337,978 kgs. in 1977) of which 182,200 kgs. sold by November 30 at average TKs19.63 per kg. (178,300 kgs. at TKs23.16). While average price reflects general decline from high level of 1977, there are now indications of firmer trend. Margins have, however, shrunk appreciably because of the impact of higher wages. But 1978 operations should produce "not unsatisfactory" profit, although it will be substantially less than in 1977.

BARAOORA TEA HOLDINGS Approximate crop of subsidiary for season 1978 was 2.29m kgs. (2,354,874 kgs.) of which 1,518,704 kgs. sold by November 30 at average Tks.19.77 per kg. (1,195,500 kgs. at Tks.21.25). Average price reflects general decline but now indications of firmer trend. Margins have shrunk considerably following recent wage awards but 1978 should show satisfactory profit, although at an appreciably lower trend than last year. Directors and professional advisers still looking into feasibility of obtaining Inland Revenue approval for capital repayment of surplus UK funds.

AMBROSE INVESTMENT TRUST—As at December 29, 1978, assets per capital share 175.14p (previous month 174.08p).

CARAVANS INTERNATIONAL—Results for year to August 31 reported December 14. Group fixed assets £7.39m (£7.35m), current assets £26.25m (£20.05m), current liabilities £23.74m (£17.89m). Working capital increased by £555,200 (£2.04m). Meeting, Great Eastern Hotel, EC, January 25, at noon.

PLAXTONS (SCARBOROUGH) has received Treasury consent for the payment of the final dividend of 3p.

TYNDALL OVERSEAS FUND (STERLING)—Interim dividend 5p per distribution share, payable February 28.

SMITH WALLIS (window fitting manufacturer)—Pre-tax profit for six months to September 30, 1978, £136,516 (£136,659). Tax £70,814 (£71,550). Interim dividend 1.5p (1p).

RELIABLE PROPERTIES—Results for June 30, 1978 year already known. Group fixed assets £819,935 (£772,490), net current assets £532,831 (£437,287). Gerson Berger Association holds 38 per cent of share capital, and Shulem Berger Association 17 per cent. Meeting, Winchester House, EC, January 30, noon.

THE TRANS-OCEANIC TRUST—Results for October 31, 1978 year already known. Investments listed in UK £18.38m (£20.38m), outside UK £11.26m (£9.28m), unlisted £0.57m (£0.82m). Net current assets £53,278 (£197,096). Company's 20 largest investments represent 36 per cent of total net assets of £30.24m. Net liquid funds up £133,000 (down £827,000). Pearl Assurance Company holds 26.7 per cent of equity, Kuwait Investment Office 9.1 per cent, and Prudential Group 7.6 per cent. Meeting, 120, Cheapside, EC, February 1, 10.30 am.

HUNSLETT (HOLDINGS) (engineering)—Results for year to August 6, 1978 reported December 16, 1978. Group fixed assets £1.07m (£642,000) net current assets £3.5m (£3.09m). Decrease in liquidity £252,000 (£145,000 increase). Directors look to future with confidence. Meeting, Leeds, January 29 at 11 am.

COULSON HERON ASSOCIATES (computer systems and services subsidiary of CHA Group)—for half-year to October 31, 1978, pre-tax profits £97,000. Profit for full year expected to exceed £200,000. Additional UK bureaux and sales offices are planned to achieve a projected turnover of £4m within next two years.

HAMPTON GOLD MINING AREAS—For half year to September 30, 1978. Trading profits £277,000 (£130,000); royalties £148,000 (£204,000); exploration costs in Australia £39,000 (£61,000); in North Sea £122,000 (£211,000). Profit before tax £245,000 (£153,000). Tax £142,000 (£106,000); attributable £103,000 (£47,000). Interim dividend 1.5p (nil) net, costs £77,927. Recovery in sales expected in second half. Discussions with Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society are continuing on possible takeover offer.

CITY OF DUBLIN BANK—Results for year to September 30, 1978 already reported. Deposit, current and other accounts, £25.79m (£17.6m). Advances and other accounts, £9.87m (£6.18m). Money at call and short notice, £7.82m (£5.95m). Total funds employed, £31.91m (£21.74m). Chairman says progress will continue but not at rate achieved in last 12 months. Meeting, Dublin, February 9.

RICHARDS (textile manufacturer)—Results for September 30, 1978 year already known. Group fixed assets £3.63m (£3.56m), net current assets £3.31m (£2.87m). Working capital increased by £441,000 (£124,000). Meeting, Aberdeen, February 7, noon.

OWEN AND ROBINSON (jeweller and silversmith) — Turnover £516,958 (£472,298) for half year to November 30, 1978, profit £12,029 (£11,486) before tax £5,050 (£4,830). Interim dividend 6p (same) net.

DUNDEE AND LONDON INVESTMENT TRUST—Results for October 31 1978 year already known. Quoted UK investments £11.63m (£11.86m), overseas £3.97m (£3.63m). Current assets £754,305 (£426,174), liabilities £440,890 (£403,630). Liquidity increased by £31,000 (£53,000). Meeting, Dundee, January 25, at noon.

CATLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER ESTATE—Results for year to June 30, 1978, already reported. Prospects for current year are for recovery of crops from 1976-77 drought conditions and, if prices of company's commodities continue at current levels, much improved results are anticipated. Net current assets £965,704 (£1.31m). Meeting, 1, Great Tower Street, EC, February 2, 12.30 pm.

SURMAH VALLEY TEA COMPANY—Has received from Bangladesh the 1977 profit remittance to enable a dividend costing £80,000 to be paid. As a result of receipt of these funds, a 6.6p dividend will be paid on February 23, 1979.

GRIEVESON MANAGEMENT CO.—The final distribution on income units for the accounting period January 11, 1978 to January 9, 1979 will be 3.853p net per unit (3.488p), payable on February 25, 1979. The total distribution for the year amounts to 6.603p (5.988p).

LANGUAGE COURSES

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Although an estimated 250,000 overseas students in Britain are learning English as a foreign language each year, the market for teaching foreign languages to British students seems at best to be steady at a lamentably low level, reports MICHAEL DIXON, Education Correspondent.

Moves to encourage interest in new skills

"WHY DO you British so insist on being amateurish?" a foreign businessman, working for an international executive-recruiting consultancy, asked not long ago.

If he has been casting this aspersion on my fellow countrymen in a general sense, I could have found arguments to rebut him. But his comment was not directed against some supposed general dilettantism among the British people. Its target was specific: our lethargic attitude to the learning of foreign languages.

As a result I had no choice but to shake my head sadly and let him wallow in his cosmopolitan. linguistic superiority. For there can be little doubt that our national approach to language-learning is one of the last bastions of bad old British amateurism.

Ask anyone who has taught English to foreigners, and you will be told that by and large they take the chore seriously, being well aware that they are thereby improving their career prospects.

And although there are signs that last year the now major business represented by schools "Teaching English as a Foreign Language" (or TEFL schools, for short) experienced a steadying of demand after its headlong increase over previous years, the market undeniably remains at a very high level.

Nobody knows how many TEFL suppliers are active in the UK. But rough estimates suggest that nearly 200 schools are open for all or most of the year, catering for perhaps 120,000 students annually, and that 2,500 or more purely seasonal operations are active during the summer, and in some instances other holidays.

Thus, a total of 250,000 students a year does not seem beyond possibility for TEFL courses in the UK, which of course excludes an unreckonable number studying English in their own countries either in private-enterprise schools or on courses subsidised by the British Council.

Contrast

By contrast, the market for teaching foreign languages to British students seems at best to be steady at a lamentably low level. Moreover, there are indications that the pattern of demand which exists in this market substantiates the foreign executive-recruiter's charge that the British students' attitude is distinctly "amateurish" when compared with their foreign counterparts' career-minded approach to learning the English tongue.

To quote the words of Professor Nigel Reeves, of Surrey University's Department of Linguistic and International Studies: "There appears to be a *good deal of interest among* British people in picking up language skills for use on holidays abroad, as can be seen from the fairly strong demand for the study programmes provided by the BBC. But when it comes to the more serious language training, involving the taking of examinations, for instance, interest in this country seems to be declining."

Ironically, this decline is taking place even though the proportion of British schoolchildren who undergo some foreign-language teaching at some time during their formal education has doubled over the past few years from about 40 to 80 per cent. Much of this increase has no doubt been encouraged by the provision of language courses leading to the "less academic" Certificate of Secondary Education exam.

But in the other, more testing 16-plus examination for GCE Ordinary levels, entries in foreign languages have been falling as a proportion of the age-group eligible to take the exam. Nor has the increased provision of language teaching for youngsters up to the age of 16 been consolidated by a rise in the numbers continuing their linguistic studies beyond that age.

Entries in foreign languages *in* the GCE Advanced-level examination at 18-plus have been declining, too. At degree level, there has been a perhaps encouraging shift in demand by students, with more of them seeking courses in which a language is taught as a "tool of *communication*," *often in com*bination with another subject such as political studies or economics, and fewer opting for the traditional language-degree courses with their heavy emphasis on the literature of the country concerned.

This shift, however, has not brought any significant increase in the overall demand for foreign-language studies at degree level. The total number of students so engaged has remained static since the early 1970s.

The lamentable state of linguistic affairs in full-time education is compounded by the continuing reluctance among adults in this country to undertake serious part-time studies. Some of the blame here might be ascribed to the Government's restrictions on public expenditure, which have led numerous local education authorities to curtail their part-time courses. As a result, the teaching of "minority" languages, which inevitably attract relatively small numbers of students, must surely have declined in the State further education system.

Another portion of the blame for the evidently stagnant demand by adults for linguistic studies related to their work, belongs to industrial and commercial employers.

Many still offer no incentive to staff to undertake the undoubted chore of language-learning, and among the companies which do provide financial encouragement, too many have left their lump-sum bonuses or salary increments for linguistically competent employees lagging far behind inflation.

Even so, there now appears to be some ground for hope. It lies most noticeably in the formation of a special working-party, under the chairmanship of the Duke of Kent, to gather evidence on the use of and need for foreign-language skills in industrial and commercial concerns.

Set up as the result of a conference held by Surrey University and the British Overseas Trade Board last May, the working party is intended to clear up the appalling national ignorance about the contribution linguistic abilities can make to an economy which depends on exporting.

Possibly the most important piece of information this group could supply is evidence that companies can improve their business overseas by having their staff learn foreign tongues, rather than sitting back and relying on their overseas customers and agents learning English.

The need for expanded and more effective education in foreign languages has become a regular feature of public speeches made by Mrs. Shirley Williams, Secretary for Education and Science

I gather that the preliminary findings support the view that British export salesmen do find commercial life less difficult if they are proficient in French and German, particularly. On the other hand there is an impression that the material benefits of learning languages such as Arabic and Japanese are not worth the effort involved, except on the part of managers in direct contact with local labour forces.

As well as furnishing evidence simply *that* skills in *widely spoken tongues are* potentially valuable, the working party also intends to spell out what kinds of skill are most required, and how employers can most effectively encourage staff to acquire the necessary competence.

It is true that such questions have been investigated before; without any subsequent improvement in this country's language-learning efforts.

But there are two main reasons for hoping that the present working party will prove more productive. One is that its inquiry—which will take *into account expert studies* also being made by Barclays International, the British Export Trade Research Organisation, and the City University Business School—promises to be the most authoritative made to date.

The other reason is that a major influence behind the latest investigation was the Department of Industry. Students of the Departmental in-fighting which goes on in Whitehall feel that this initiative by the DoI may well be interpreted by the Department *of Education and Science as* a serious threat to its territory, with a consequent increase in the DES's motivation to convert foreign-language teaching from an amateurish hotchpotch to a well directed effort in line with the country's economic interests.

It may be *significant that in* the past year or so, the need for expanded and more effective education in foreign languages has become a regular feature of public speeches made by Mrs. Shirley Williams, Secretary for Education and Science.

This is not to say that the State education system has so far ignored the need to promote far greater practical linguistic abilities among the coming generations.

Several local authorities have put forward recommendations for improvements including increased emphasis on the spoken, as distinct from the written, word; the establishment of a nationally recognised grading scheme for language skills similar to the system which exists for grading successive levels of proficiency in playing a musical instrument; and the design of classrooms where foreign languages are taught so as to convey to pupils the "atmosphere" of the country concerned.

But these useful proposals, like ministerial exhortations, are not sufficient to accomplish the required change. No amount of initiative by local authority officials and teachers with a particular interest in languages will do any good unless they are provided with extra money to make their ideas work.

At present the combination of restricted public spending and union demands that priority be given to the employment of teachers regardless of their subject, is if anything depriving linguistic subjects of the funds needed to make proper use of the *equipment they have* already.

Equally essential to any effective improvement is the establishment of far better co-ordination of the language-teaching efforts of the various parts of the education system. One reason for declining study of foreign tongues by youngsters beyond the age of 16, for example, is probably that the greater emphasis placed on practical use of the langauge by the new CSE and O-level examinations, has not been followed *through* by *Advanced*-level exam syllabuses, which largely retain the traditional *concern with literature. More*over, a need for a different kind of language teaching ineluctably implies a need for a different kind of language teacher, which in turn requires a massive *investment* in retraining existing staff.

So regardless of the efforts of the latest working party to provide a blueprint for the reform of linguistic teaching in this country, the outcome will finally depend on whether or not political Government has the will to bring about radical changes in *the education system's* administrative structure.

Year	Elementary-level examinations Numbers entered	% passed	Intermediate-level examinations Numbers entered	% passed	Advanced-level examinations Numbers entered	% passed	All levels Numbers entered	% passed
1968	1,182	77	671	65	290	70	2,143	73
1969	917	76	666	76	226	72	1,809	76
1970	915	78	544	74	214	75	1,673	77
1971	865	80	464	73	128	73	1,457	77
1972	1,098	83	556	62	166	71	1,820	77
1973	1,383	83	508	67	136	68	2,027	77
1974	1,394	85	464	74	143	74	2,001	82
1975	1,145	86	439	75	157	86	1,741	84
1976	1,109	85	512	86	166	87	1,787	85
1977	1,207	85	550	87	266	87	2,023	86
1978	1,137	85	593	83	266	85	1,996	85

A reluctance to study

THE ACCOMPANYING table gives probably the clearest indication available of the continuing reluctance among British adults to pursue serious study of foreign languages with the aim of extending their working skills. The figures show the past 11 years' results for the language examinations conducted by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

These tests have been developed specifically for people using languages in the course of their work. And although the tests are occasionally taken by public sector workers—such as the two West Midlands policemen who last year passed in Urdu—the candidates mostly come from business concerns in *various parts of the UK.*

Special exams can be set up by the LCCI to cater for the needs of a particular industry or even an individual company, and a concern wishing to enter a batch of candidates can arrange for the testing to be *carried out on its own premises*, instead of sending its entrants to one of the Chamber's regular examining sessions which are held in major regional centres.

The main feature of these tests is that they involve no written work. Mr. Ernest Lee, an LCCI specialist in languages, maintains that the concentration purely on the skills of speaking and listening is tailored to the needs of the bulk of linguists in industry and commerce. A study made by the London Chamber of people whose work requires general use of languages—as distinct from specialist applications such as technical translation—has shown that only 19 per cent of the relevant time is spent in reading the language and 17 per cent in writing it.

General business use is also the main criterion for the three-stage grading system. A pass at the elementary stage acknowledges that a candidate is competent enough in the language to fulfil the basic needs of life if he or she were sent to the country concerned. As a result, success at the first stage should ensure the ability to cope sensibly, if less than fluently, with simple conversation either by telephone or face to face.

A pass at the second, intermediate stage signifies the possession of a basic commercial vocabulary and, where appropriate, enough "specialist" words to conduct simple business transactions provided that the person on the other side of the desk were inclined to be *more co-operative than cunning*. Nor should a bit of social mixing be beyond the intermediate-level linguist.

Candidates who succeed in the chamber's advanced test should have no trouble at all in mixing with nationals of the country in question. What is more, they should be able to deal with the whole range of transactions relevant to their business just as compelently as they could if they were speaking English.

(The entry fees for the examinations during 1979 are £6 for the elementary level, £8 for the intermediate, and £10 for the advanced.)

Before anyone takes heart from seeing that the latest years' figures are fairly high, however, I had better reveal an unpleasant fact. For the first five years covered by the table, the statistics relate solely to entries in foreign languages. But in the more recent years, the table's figures also include entrants in the chamber's English tests for people of overseas origin.

The English tests are apparently growing in popularity, especially with students of English in France and Germany, and last year accounted for 258 of the LCCI's total entries.

Even so, their inclusion in the table's figures hides a discouraging decline in the number of foreign-language candidates from 1968, five years before the UK became part of the European Economic Community, to 1978.

By comparison with 1968, entries in overseas languages at elementary level were 6 per cent down at 1,107, the intermediate figure was 30 per cent lower at 468, and the advanced entry showed a 44 per cent drop to 163.

Moreover, since candidates in the English tests at all three stages were more than 90 per cent successful, the pass rates among the foreign-language *entrants were not as good as the* table suggests.

The language which contributed the most candidates last year was French with 890, compared with 885 in 1977. Entrants in German rose by 20 to 621. Those in English came third with 258, eight fewer than in 1977. The entry in Spanish declined by 19 to 143, and that in Italian by 22 to 51.

Dutch was represented by nine candidates (six); Swedish by eight (two); Russian by six (13); Chinese by six for the second year running; Urdu by the two policemen (none in 1977); and Greek and Portuguese again had one entrant apiece.

BOOKS

Three critics

BY C. P. SNOW

On Difficulty and Other Essays by George Steiner. Oxford, £5.50. 209 pages

The Avoidance of Literature: The Collected Essays by C. H. Sisson, edited by Michael Schmidt. Carcenet, £7.90. 581 pages

Literature and Society: Essays and Opinions (1931-78) by Edgell Rickword, edited by Alan Young. Carcenet, £6.90. 332 pages

It is a reproach to this country that George Steiner hasn't found an adequate academic appointment here. Our loss is Geneva's and Europe's gain. We needs must choose the dimmest when we see it. Steiner is altogether too little dim. He is marvellously eloquent in three languages and, as much as is granted to one man, over the whole range of contemporary culture. He has a passionate sense of social concern. He is creative on anything which occupies his mind (some of his highest achievements have been with his own short stories). He is deeply admired in America. He is too miscellaneously and spectacularly gifted for this country, which happens to be the one he loves most.

We all know that he gives some ammunition to his detractors. With his profusion of talent, it would be unnatural if he didn't. He knows more than almost anyone around, but he can be irritatingly careless in detail (there is an example on page 30 in this book). He needs an intellectual nursemaid to clear up after him. He has a highly charged dramatic sense, and sometimes cannot resist making a good story better. He is not cool-headed enough for some kinds of mental discourse. But none of that means that he is not one of the most remarkable figures on the world literary scene.

This new collection shows him at his best, and sometimes at his most faltering. The first essay, Texts and Context, is the finest Steiner, with all the extravagances drained out. He is struggling with two qualities which a good society should possess. He doesn't see how society can preserve its virtue without a devotion to high literature, without, that is to say, a serious concentration on books such as the best elements of 19th century culture trained, cherished, respected. That means, of course, a deeply educated élite. How is one going to reconcile social approval for such an élite alongside the egalitarian liberal hopes?

Steiner has warm human feeling. He would like to believe more in human possibilities than his tough mind will permit him. He has to admit, with reluctance, that the two goods—a high culture and any conscientious egalitarianism — are irreconcilable.

He is usually at his best on these sharp issues. As witness the brilliant essay on Freud's language and its effect on psycho-analysis. In these pieces Steiner's own language shows how English can be at the same time resonant and clear. In one or two other essays, where he is less certain of his ground, he presses too much, the texture becomes over-elaborate and anxiously over-emphatic. Ultimately, Steiner has the proper confidence of a man aware of what he can do: but in a tactical fashion he sometimes seems to lose his way, and then a lack of confidence shows through. This is disturbing.

C. H. Sisson is, in a totally different manner, as singular and independent a figure as Steiner, though with nothing like the *demonic energy* or the aura of something rarer than talent. As with Steiner, Sisson's most complete achievement seems to rest in his own creative work. His poetry is much more satisfying than his quirky idiosyncratic excursions into history, politics, national affairs, critical disquisitions.

Still, he is his own man, and a very odd one. He has spent a professional career as a civil servant, in regions which appear to have been rather remote from the policy levels. Now in his sixties, he is making up for lost time, and has opinions on almost everything. It turns out that he has had opinions on almost everything since he was a very young man.

The effect of these essays is often baffling. His language is quiet, and, though not eloquent, gives an impression of equable sense—until a shock descends, and he breaks out, still quiet-voiced, into startling departures from reality. He is patriotic, in a way unfashionable when he was young, and that is a refreshment. He believes in the monarchy, which is perfectly reasonable, as the only institution with the magic or mana to hold our society together. He would himself put that on a more elevated plane, and in practice not many of us would quarrel. After that, however, the quiet voice begins to ruminate about Hooker, and it emerges that Sisson sees the salvation of contemporary England in Monarchy and Church—Church being, of course, the Church of England. Well, there might be value in that if it were remotely possible: but it wasn't possible, except in the most formal sense, 200 years ago.

In the 1930s, Sisson was deeply enthused by Charles Maurras and the Action Française. Gradually he found Maurras not the final answer to a national existence: but, though Sisson accuses others, quite justly, of forming unrealistic models of government, he seems never to have been capable of judging the French ultra right in terms of action, where all politics must be judged. There are two essays about Maurras in this collection, running to many words, but there is not one word about the Action's attitude when the Nazis transported the whole population of French Jews eastward—to a fate which too many people already knew. A number of Sisson's disquisitions reveal a similar capacity, under the soberness of his reflection, to turn his mind away.

Edgell Rickword, in his teens, had a gallant record as a front line soldier in the First World War. Afterwards he became a committed Marxist and international pacifist, in the hopeful spirit of the 1920s. It was then that he edited the Calendar of Modern Letters, which set the tone for much contemporary criticism. He was the best tempered and best mannered of Marxist literary critics, and his essays of the 1930s read freshly today.

He seems never to have departed from the orthodox party line, and in April 1941, still obdurately pacifist, one of the most extraordinary of Communist miscalculations, was continuing to regard the war as an attempt to preserve Anglo-American imperialism. If that was what we were doing, we weren't startlingly successful.

In later years, Rickword may have been disheartened, which was a genuine loss, and wrote little, except on romantic high-minded radical figures from the past in whom he could recapture his own early hopes.

Praise is due to Carcanet, one of the bravest and widest-minded of small publishers for having given us both Sisson and Rickword, and filled a significant gap in the literary record. Praise is above all due to Michael Schmidt, the driving force behind the whole enterprise.

Their Holinesses

BY RACHEL BILLINGTON

The Year of Three Popes by Peter Hebblethwaite. Collins, £6.50. 220 pages (paperback Fount, 95p)

Illustrissimi: The Letters of Pope John Paul I. Preface by Cardinal Hume. Illustrated by Papas. Translated by Isabel Quigly. Collins, £5.95. 285 pages

The Oxford Dictionary of Saints by David Hugh Farmer. Oxford University Press, £7.50. 435 pages

Peter Hebblethwaite had already completed a book on two Popes when John Paul I died after only 33 days in office and he found himself faced with a third Pope. The resulting book is a heady mixture of theological discussion, solid information and detective story.

As he explains, although his brief was essentially to describe the making of Popes, and was necessarily written very quickly, he drew on the thoughts and experience of a lifetime. An ex-Jesuit (now married with two children), ex-editor of The Month and author of many books on Catholicism, he was obviously well suited to the task. That he manages to make serious points without losing the excitement of the Vatican race, is a tribute to his journalistic powers. *The Year of Three Popes* is as likely to appeal to Pagan, Christian or Holy Roman.

The story begins with an estimate of Pope Paul's heritage to the Church. It includes an interesting examination of the role of the Papal diplomats from whom Pope Paul hoped for so much—"to despair of diplomacy is to despair of man." In general, Mr. Hebblethwaite believes that Pope Paul's most productive period came in the early years of his papacy when he managed to break through the fetters of office and become the "apostolic" Pope he aspired to be. The idea of priest as "pastor" rather than some remote commander, led him to encourage liturgical reform. Nor did he hesitate over the fraught question (more fraught in Rome than anywhere else) of Ecumenism. All this was directly inspired by the Second Vatican Council and if the inspiration had begun to be overlaid by "paralysing caution" at the end, then old age might be the most charitable explanation.

There is no doubt, however, that the Church was ready for a new leader and now Mr. Hebblethwaite embarks on the detective story part of his book. Two Popes were to be elected in the space of a few months—theoretically, in total secrecy. Total secrecy in the face of the world's Press gathered together in an area so small that the 111 Cardinal electors (no one might vote over the age of eighty) could hardly hope to remain under cover. In fact members of the Roman Curia had the right to preach before the election started and they used the occasion to plead the cause of the Right, if not the right. It would be impossible here to summarise Peter Hebblethwaite's convincing analysis of the groups within the conclave — the powerful Italian lobby, the "European progressives," the American Left wing, the Third World faction—but he manages both to explain something of the politics which produced the relatively unknown Albino Luciano while still allowing that the "Holy Spirit" might have been an equally important factor.

So the short reign of Pope John Paul I began and although the directness, the smile, the humanity are described, it is obvious that, with hindsight, a feeling is growing that his greatest importance was in the role of precursor. There were already signs that he couldn't have managed the Roman Curia, that he, like the older Pope Paul, soon would have become trapped by his office.

But because of his early death, a whole new range of possibilities opened. Suddenly an Italian Pope was not inevitable. Once more the Press gathered, once more theoretical total secrecy reigned and once more Mr. Hebblethwaite does his Sherlock Holmes act. This time the emergence of Cardinal Wojtyla from Krakow, Poland, was so exciting that an extraordinary euphoria spread round the world. Holy Spirit or not, the Cardinals had to be given some credit for the most astounding election of a world leader this century.

Even after the chapters in which Peter Hebblethwaite examines Wojtyla's background and shows that he has had a great deal of experience on the international scene, the sheer strength of his character remains a surprise. His discourse to the conclave on the morning after his election included so many firm declarations of intent that any Vatican diplomatist must have shuddered. "It does not seem possible," he cried, "that there should still remain a drama of division among Christians. . . ." The voice of John Paul II should carry that cry a very long way.

One of Mr. Hebblethwaite's themes is the human individuality and the importance of the individuality of the Popes. This point is reinforced by the publication of Pope John Paul I's letters written for the popular Christian newspaper, the Messaggero di S. Antonio, during his time as Patriarch of Venice. They are not at all what one would associate with a high dignitary of the Italian Church. Each one is addressed to a famous person of the past, such as Dickens, King David, Pinocchio, St. Luke, Penelope, Hippocrates. He uses a discussion of their views or character as a springboard for a simple homily, usually more practical than theological. Thus Penelope leads him to discuss the role of wives and women today, Pinocchio the problems of youth (which is one of his main preoccupations), and St. Luke to suggest the advantage of neighbourly charity over world revolution.

Pope from Krakow—John Paul II

The style is homely — sometimes rather too homely—but, at best, makes points with an engaging directness. No one could deny this Pope-to-be was closely in touch with life in the 1970s.

Finally, for those who want to compare the holy of the present with the holy of the past, Oxford University Press has brought out a compact *Dictionary of Saints*. Although nothing can supplant my best wedding present, Butler's four volume *Lives of the Saints*; it makes fascinating reading, viz:

"Antony of Egypt (251-356), abbot. . . . From his monastery he went to Alexandria in 311 to encourage the confessors during the persecution of Maximinus. He lived by gardening and mat-making. . . . Regarded as the patriarch of monks and the healer of both men and animals, he left his trace on the English language through the word 'tantony,' a diminutive applied to pigs (the smallest of the litter) and to bells (the smallest of the peal)."

Nasser man speaks about Sadat

BY ANTHONY McDERMOTT

Sphinx and Commissar: the Rise and Fall of Soviet Influence in the Middle East, by Mohamed Heikal. Collins. £6.95; 303 pages

It is remarkable how limited the returns have been for the Soviet Union as a result of their policies in the Middle East. It has never lacked opportunities to have considerably greater influence than it has now. As Arab governments became independent, many initially turned away from the West towards Moscow. It should have been able to make far more of Washington's hitherto total support for Israel.

To be fair, Moscow has been generous with aid and arms. But it probably has at this moment dependable friends only in Aden. It is possible that, with the future of direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel uncertain and with the conservative states feeling the draught from the upheavals in Iran, the opportunity to reassert its influence may present itself in the not too distant future. But if Mr. Heikal's perceptive analysis of Soviet dealings with Arab governments is a guide, the Russians will have to improve on past performances and show they have learned from setbacks in the past.

Mr. Heikal is peculiarly well-placed to give what he calls "a personal narrative" of Soviet-Arab relations. For 17 years he was editor of al-Ahram, Cairo's main newspaper. He was also Nasser's closest confidant and adviser. Thus he knew Nasser's thinking intimately and he often used his Friday column, Frankly Speaking (probably the widest read in the Middle East) for testing out the President's ideas on the public.

He also accompanied Nasser on his visits to Moscow, almost as a full member of the Egyptian delegation. Inevitably, this privileged position eventually put him at odds with President Sadat, who sacked him from his editorship in 1974 and who has been trying to curb his pen since. Heikal has been strongly critical of Sadat's visit in November 1977 to Jerusalem, of his persistence with direct negotiations with the Israelis.

But it would be an error to conclude that this background makes the author an uncritical admirer of Moscow. On the contrary, his basic thesis is that the course Egypt should now be pursuing is that similar to the one in which Nasser was only spasmodically successful—striking a balance betweenth e two super-powers. He criticises Sadat for putting all his faith in Washington to the exclusion of Moscow.

Mr. Heikal argues convincingly a number of main reasons why the Russians have failed to profit from favourable circumstances. Firstly, they always confused their role as the leaders of revolutionary forces with the interests and responsibilities of being a superpower. Secondly, they have consistently failed to understand local Arab nationalisms and pan-Arabism as a whole, and what should be the role of Arab communist parties. Thirdly, he found the Russians generally rigid, bureaucratic, and slow-moving. (He touches only lightly on the possibility that the Russians often found the Arabs infuriating and militarily incompetent).

Besides this, the book contains an interesting account of Soviet relations with the Arabs since the Revolution, and an "instruction manual" which Nasser was thinking of compiling for heads of states on the do's and don'ts of business with the Soviet Union.

Above all, the book is well-written and the narrative is spiced with lively anecdotes. Perhaps the most bizarre incident occurred while he was staying with the Egyptian delegation at a hunting lodge just outside Moscow. After dinner with his hosts, he repaired to the room he had been allocated. In the dark he could find neither the light nor his luggage and slept in his shirt—somewhat surprised to find he had to double up with someone else. When dawn came, he was able to make out his bedfellow—none other than President Podgorn !

Fiction

Rumours of war

BY ISOBEL MURRAY

Going After Cacciato by Tim O'Brien. Jonathan Cape, £4.95. 338 pages

A Twentieth-Century Man by David Benedictus. Blond & Briggs, £4.95. 192 pages

The Mutual Friend by Frederick Busch. The Harvester Press, £4.95. 222 pages

Rhanna by Christine Marion Fraser. Blond & Briggs, £5.25. 349 pages

"My theory," said the Doc, "is that the guy missed Mongolian idiocy by the breadth of a genetic hair. Could've gone either way." But Cacciato went an unexpected way. According to his comrade Paul Berlin, Cacciato decided to leave the war in Vietnam in 1968—to walk to Paris. And he planned it: 8,600 miles to walk—Laos, Burma, somewhere else, India, Iran, Turkey and Greece—and then, he said, "the rest is easy."

No one had to be a near-idiot to want to leave Nam for Paris in 1968: in fact, the idea caught on. Led on by the cheerful mocking traces of the escapee and his Hershey bar wrappings, his company is sent to bring him back. But every mile silently persuades them that they are all going in the right direction—away from the war, and the very first national frontier makes his pursuers implicitly his accomplices, as they scurry surrealistically over two continents in his crazy wake.

Paul Berlin is a young man who has landed in Vietnam as abruptly and unwillingly as any American draftee, a young man "whose only goal was to live long enough to establish goals worth living for still longer." We see him enmeshed in the grim horrors of war, from men exploding in booby-trapped tunnels to men silently conniving at the death of an over-zealous officer. We see him eagerly joining the wild, splendid race to Paris, acquiring a lovely Oriental refugee on the way.

And through him Tim O'Brien has investigated and passed judgment on that war, its motives, its operation, its logic. He writes r ry well. Cogent, funny, inventive, puzzling, intriguing, it is a book to savour and to re-read.

David Benedictus's new novel, *A Twentieth-Century Man*, is also much concerned with the horrors of war. His hero is, by 1976, a Tory MP with delusions of promise, but his destiny was pre-formed in 1945 when as a junior officer he was present at the Allied relief of the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. The novel alternates between his comfortable, dissatisfied life in the 70s and horrific descriptions of his experiences at Belsen.

In Belsen he met a bald, emaciated girl who became his wife, but he could not cure her nightmares, and stopped trying. By the 70s she is an alcoholic embarrassment and he is preoccupied with seeking consolation elsewhere. In Belsen they had meant to devote their youth and idealism to publicising the atrocities and preventing any possible recurrence. In London, 1976, he has become, perhaps symbolically, cynical, comfortable, self-seeking, disappointed.

If it has a larger message, it is probably easy to justify dwelling on the horrors, but I found a rather disquieting dislocation of style as Belsen faded from the latter part of the book. The death of the hero's father has all Benedictus's characteristic, sardonic wit: some thought he must have written his own Times obituary, but "those who had known him best insisted that he had not been the sort of man to speak well of the dead."

Perhaps dislocation is a necessary feature of the description of twentieth-century man, but after a lot of admiration my disquiet persists. Good, but not his best.

Frederick Busch, novelist and professor of English, has united his interests in producing *The Mutual Friend*, a fictional life of Dickens. It has a fine authenticity of atmosphere and convincing factual background, and is told racily, and ingeniously. I'm not sure if it's for those who are acquainted with Dickens's life or those who are not; but it certainly beats the bad biographies!

Parts of the tale come from Dickens's cast off wife, from his actress-mistress Ellen Ternan, from one of the "fallen women" he helped to reclaim, and from Dickens himself, but most of the narrative is controlled by his factotum Dolby, and put together in the charity ward where he is dying at the end of the century.

The Dolby-Dickens relation is a complex one, composed of both love and dislike, sometimes envy on Dolby's part and indifference on Dickens's. Together they went on his Great American Tour, his last major set of public readings from the novels. Busch's Dickens is great but hardly cuddly, bravely overcoming physical handicaps, but mainly for the ego-trips the Readings constitute. Time after time he insists on doing "the Murder" (Bill Sykes and Nancy), although it takes heavy toll of him, and causes his old pulse to race, at one point, to 124.

It is a highly entertaining novel, which I hardly expected to enjoy (all those bad biographies!), but am pleased to commend.

I cannot say the same for Christine Marion Fraser's *Rhanna*, an everyday story of Hebridean Islanders. It is long and romantic, and to my mind tedious.

A brave, upstanding crofter, Fergus, loses his wife in childbirth in the first chapter, and proceeds for many years (and chapters) to hate Shona, the baby he holds responsible. Pride destroys his relation with Kirsteen the teacher, and he is unaware of the birth of his second child. Shona early becomes pregnant by the son of the doctor Fergus also holds responsible for his wife's death, and it is only after much suffering, and many people smouldering at each other, Peyton-Place-style, that everyone left lives happily ever after. If you like romances of the earth earthy, read *Rhanna*.

SF yarns

BY RAY LARSEN

Dreamsnake by Vonda McIntyre, Gollancz, £4.95, 313 pages.

In the wake of a nuclear holocaust a benign woman healer wanders the world searching for the dreamsnake, a semi-mystical reptile with strange medical properties. It is nice to find a central character dealing in medicine rather than mayhem even if the nuclear war scenario has been well and truly overworked by fiction writers in recent years.

Up the Walls of the World by James Tiptree Jr., Gollancz, £5.25, 319 pages.

A secret U.S. research project on telepathy suddenly starts producing dramatic results of the wrong kind. The researchers have the bad luck to contact a race of aliens who are threatened by a black hole which is gobbling up their sector of the galaxy. Needless to say, the human race is on the receiving end when the aliens start demanding lebensraum.

Oil Planet by Michael Elder, Robert Hale, £3.95, 175 pages.

Earth is torn between Capitalist and Communist blocs striving to grab the few remaining natural resources. The war is carried into outer space with both sides racing to discover oil-rich planets.

At this stage one begins to have doubts. Is not there a bad flaw here? Surely a civilisation capable of sending space ships across the galaxy would no longer be reliant on oil.

This is the second oil-seeker book and hopefully the author will now realise that this particular well has finally run dry.

Wall St. strong & active: up 8

INVESTMENT DOLLAR PREMIUM

$2.60 to £1—89¼% (85¼%)
Effective $1.9960 45¼% (42½%)

STOCKS BOUNDED ahead in heavy trading on Wall Street yesterday following the bullish news on the U.S. money supply.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average moved up 8.23 to 836.28, making a net rise of 5.55 on the week, while the NYSE All Common Index, at $55.91, gained 49 cents on the day and 50 cents on the week. Advances outpaced declines by a near four-to-one majority, while the trading volume shot ahead 12.66m shares to 37.29m.

Investors were cheered late Thursday when the Federal Reserve said the Basic Money Supply was unchanged in the latest reporting week. A large rise in the Money Stock had been expected by a number of analysts.

The money report led analysts to conclude the Fed would not need to further tighten credit in the near term. Additionally, Citibank held its prime rate unchanged this morning at 11¾ per cent.

Eastman Kodak were active and up $⅝ to $62¼—it will market two new Ektaprint copier-duplicators by year-end.

United Technologies tacked on $¼ at $39—a Federal Judge delayed its planned takeover of Carrier, off $¼ to $25¼.

THE AMERICAN SE Market Value Index rose 1.47 to 160.33, making a rise of 2.67 on the week.

Instrument Systems held unchanged at $1⅛—it denied reports it defaulted on loan agreements.

CANADA—Share prices closed sharply higher in active trading and the Toronto Composite Index spurted 13.5 to a record level of 1360.10.

The Metals and Minerals Index moved up 17.0 to 1189.2, Oil and Gas 23.5 to 1913.1, Utilities 1.11 to 201.40, Banks 1.66 to 315.59 and Papers 1.41 to 163.06. Golds put on 1.9 to 1431.9.

Moffat Communications edged up $¼ to $9⅜ on higher first quarter earnings.

Macmillan Bloedel rose $¼ to $26—it is subject of a takeover bid by Canadian Pacific Investments.

GERMANY — Markets remained firm, with dollar's renewed strength and continued foreign interest buoying share prices.

Foreign investors concentrated on Engineering. Stores also firmed by up to nearly DM5. Insurances mixed, Bankings weaker.

SWITZERLAND — Prices rose over a broad front in active trading, boosted by firmer dollar.

Dollar stocks mostly above overnight New York closings. Dutch and German shares advanced.

TOKYO—Slightly lower on late profit-taking. Volume 410m (460m shares).

Electricals, Cameras, non Ferrous Metals generally lower.

AUSTRALIA—Firm with Minings most active sector.

Industrials mixed with some issues reacting against Reserve Bank's decision to increase Statutory Reserve Deposit to 4.5 per cent.

HONG KONG—Slightly below highest in increased volume, boosted by overseas demand, particularly London.

JOHANNESBURG — Golds easier in line with lower bullion price. Losses extended to 140 cents among "heavyweights" and up to 25 cents elsewhere.

PARIS—Shares continued firm in active business, encouraged by French Foreign Trade Minister's statement that France is likely to have a trade surplus of FFr 2bn to FFr 3bn for 1978 after a FFr 13.9bn deficit in 1977.

BRUSSELS—Mostly higher in moderate trading.

AMSTERDAM—Prices firmed over a broad front in more activity.

State Loans quietly steady.

MILAN—Selectively higher in moderate trading.

Bonds steady.

FRIDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Xerox	512,300	60⅞	+1
McGraw-Hill	493,300	33½	+⅝
Sears Roebuck	456,200	21⅞	+⅛
Boeing	380,500	78	+⅝
Bally Mfg	321,400	54⅜	+2½
EastMan Kodak	317,100	62¾	+⅛
Texaco	282,800	24⅛	+⅛
K. Mart	255,300	23⅜	+⅛
IBM	245,800	312	+½
Merck	243,000	70⅞	+⅞

Indices

NEW YORK —DOW JONES

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11	Jan. 10	Jan. 9	Jan. 8	Jan. 5	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
●Industrials	836.28	828.05	824.95	831.43	826.14	830.75	907.74 (8/9)	742.12 (28/2)	1051.70 (11/1/73)	41.22 (2/7/32)
H'me B'nds	84.11	84.38	84.27	84.40	84.50	84.49	90.88 (4/1/78)	84.11 (12/1/79)	—	—
Transport	217.67	216.46	214.50	215.88	218.81	217.57	261.49 (8/9)	199.31 (9/1/78)	279.88 (7/2/69)	12.23 (8/7/32)
Utilities	102.00	101.26	101.22	101.25	101.46	101.59	110.98 (5/1)	97.73 (20/12)	163.32 (20/4/69)	10.58 (28/4/42)
Trading vol. 000's	37,290	24,880	25,060	27,340	21,440	28,860	—	—	—	—

● Day's high 843.38 low 830.04

	Jan. 5	Dec. 29	Dec. 22	Year ago approx
Ind. div. yield %	5.84	6.03	6.00	5.54

STANDARD AND POORS

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11	Jan. 10	Jan. 9	Jan. 8	Jan. 5	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
‡Industrials	111.41	110.46	110.02	110.69	110.06	110.48	118.71 (13/9)	95.52 (6/3)	134.64 (11/1/73)	3.52 (30/6/32)
§Composite	99.95	99.10	98.77	99.55	98.80	99.15	106.99 (12/9)	86.90 (6/3)	125.85 (11/1/63)	4.40 (1/6/32)

	Jan. 10	Jan. 3	Dec. 27	Year ago (approx.)
Ind. div. yield %	4.91	5.04	5.10	4.90
Ind. P/E Ratio	8.93	8.84	8.74	9.13
Long Gov. Bond yield	8.98	8.96	8.92	8.02

N.Y.S.E. ALL COMMON

Jan. 12	Jan. 11	Jan. 10	Jan. 9	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low
55.91	55.42	55.25	55.53	60.38 (11/9)	48.37 (6/3)

Rises and Falls

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11	Jan. 10
Issues Traded	1,865	1,839	1,883
Rises	1,204	717	589
Falls	332	658	858
Unchanged	329	464	436
New Highs	—	—	53
New Lows	—	—	9

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11	Jan. 10	Jan. 9	1978-79 High	1978-79 Low
MONTREAL Industrial	229.86	225.84	228.17	226.61	229.86 (12/1/79)	152.98 (16/2)
MONTREAL Combined	235.61	231.01	231.32	232.01	235.61 (12/1/79)	170.82 (30/1)
TORONTO Composite	1360.1	1346.6	1345.6	1349.8	1360.1 (12/1/79)	998.2 (30/1)
JOHANNESBURG Gold	247.8	249.5	249.5	251.7	272.8 (14/8)	188.8 (28/4)
JOHANNESBURG Industrial	285.4	282.1	281.5	278.9	285.4 (12/1/79)	184.9 (15/5)

	Jan. 12	Pre-vious	1978-9 High	1978-9 Low
Australia(¶)	562.90	560.79	566.79 (22/9)	411.19 (1/5)
Belgium (‖)	101.38	101.07	101.38 (12/1/79)	90.43 (23/6)
Denmark(**)	88.87	82.87	98.96 (14/5)	88.08 (30/10)
France (††)	76.6	77.4	85.0 (4/10)	47.6 (3/3)
Germany(‡‡)	857.50	854.10	863.8 (19/10)	759.4 (17/5)
Holland (§§)	84.5	83.4	93.1 (11/9)	76.0 (4/4)
Hong Kong (¶¶)	532.83	528.50	707.70 (4/9)	383.4 (13/4)
Italy (‖‖)	70.19	69.34	82.25 (25/9)	55.46 (10/1)
Japan (a)	459.57	459.38	459.57 (12/1/79)	384.04 (4/10)
Singapore(b)	356.22	357.41	414.50 (8/9)	262.0 (9/1)

	Jan. 12	Pre-vious	1978-9 High	1978-9 Low
Spain (d)	93.03	93.68	93.09 (12/1/79)	93.03 (12/1/79)
Sweden (e)	375.45	374.37	408.00 (4/8)	326.74 (5/1)
Switzerld(f)	303.6	300.2	323.7 (14/2)	261.6 (26/9)

Indices and base dates (all base values 100 except NYSE All Common—50; Standards and Poors—10; and Toronto 300—1,000; the last named based on 1975). † Excluding bonds. ‡ 400 Industrials. § 400 Industrials, 40 Utilities, 40 Finance and 20 Transport. ¶ Sydney All Ordinary. ‖ Belgian SE 31/12/63. ** Copenhagen SE 1/1/73. †† Paris Bourse 1961. ‡‡ Commerzbank Dec. 1953. §§ Amsterdam Industrial 1970. ¶¶ Hang Seng Bank 31/7/64. ‖‖ Banca Commerciale Italiana 1972. a Tokyo New SE 4/1/68. b Straits Times 1966. c Closed. d Madrid SE 30/12/77. e Stockholm Industrial 1/1/58. f Swiss Bank Corporation. u Unavailable.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 3,870

A prize of £5 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....

....

ACROSS

1 Anxious to take vehicle to the Spanish Gulf port (4-5)
6 Good beginning by talented film actor (5)
9 Open up the West with one study (5)
10 Cold-blooded creature with stick spread at tea-time (4, 5)
11 Where a girl shows a sign of engagement (4, 6)
12 Island in the Mersey otherwise occupied (4)
14 Marked frightened outside right (7)
15 Continue jeering in Somerset (7)
17 Simply without skill (7)
19 Worker in clay, about 50, is a schemer (7)
20 Change course for food (4)
22 What goes on in service with lots of people supporting cause (4, 6)
25 Appear aware of need to be quick (4, 5)
26 Turn over aloft at the finish (5)
27 Insolence we have to face (5)
28 Almost impossible to understand what is obscure (4, 2, 3)

DOWN

1 Shrink from milk producer with hesitation (5)
2 Communist and German worker no longer needed (9)
3 Country obliges the army (4, 6)
4 Upset newsman punished by court accurately described (7)
5 No Scots perfume being created (7)
6 Opening with Oriental stare (4)
7 Public transport close to *going on ahead of guard* (5)
8 Just a singer taking a regular course (4, 5)
13 Not worth considering before the hearing (3, 2, 5)
14 Fashionable beer caught by wise guy (5, 4)
16 Tins taste differently in shabby state (9)
18 Sash pin of Iberian origin (7)
19 Imitation jewelry taken to ancient city by scientist (7)
21 Spice a large number adore . . . (5)
23 . . . for instance before debt collector turns up to jog (5)
24 Brand of foreign currency (4)

Solution to Puzzle No. 3,869

SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 3,864

Following are the winners of last Saturday's prize puzzle:

Ms. C. D. Grant, 42, Fotheringham Road, Ayr, KA8 0EY.

Mrs. B. E. Knight, 77, Princess Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset, BH12 1BQ.

Ms. J. Nixon, 93, Werneth Road, Woodley, Stockport, SK6 1HR.

RACING BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Impressive 'Cognac' napped for Ascot

LAST SEASON undoubtedly belonged to Jonjo O'Neill with a record breaking 149 winners to his credit and it could well be that another Irishman, *Tommy Carmody, will prove* almost equally dominant this season.

Carmody, hot on the heels of John Francome in the championship race and enjoying a better *percentage rate*, with more than 30 per cent of his mounts winning, undoubtedly has the right ammunition for a title push.

First jockey to Tony Dickinson, he is already riding regularly for such useful back up teams as those of Neville Callaghan, Jimmy Fitzgerald, Mick Naughton, Gerry Blum and Alan Jarvis.

Anyone who saw Carmody in action at Kempton on Boxing Day can have no doubts that Dickinson has found an outstanding replacement for his now-retired son, Michael. Content to lie towards the back of the biggest-ever King George VI field on Gay Spartan *for* the first two miles, Carmody brought the newly installed Gold Cup *favourite* with a steady and relentless run which took him to the head of affairs *in the home straight*.

If the King George VI proved a perfect example of economical riding and sure judgment of pace, Carmody's riding of Regalus earlier on gave an equally impressive demonstration of his ability in the department of strength. Riding one of the strongest finishes I have ever seen, he touched off Bombardier on the line to win by a head.

Whatever *his fate* in the jockeys' championship, which he bids to land in his first season in this country, Carmody should certainly enjoy a memorable Cheltenham. Apart from the Gold Cup ride on Gay Spartan, he will have a number *of likely looking mounts from* his own country, including Slaney Idol, a high-class winner on the Flat.

Carmody has held the view for a long time that Slaney Idol *would* win the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle and he still remains confident in Liam Browne's hurdler in spite of the three-year-old's disappointing run at Leopardstown on Boxing Day.

This afternoon at Ascot, Carmody will be hoping to win both divisions of the Durham Ranger Novices Hurdle through the Neville Callaghan pair Regalus and Hang-on Elvis.

Hang-on Elvis could win, but *I should be more than a little* surprised if Regalus is good enough to contain Fred Winter's four-year-old Major Swallow, an encouraging fourth at Newbury on his only previous outing.

For the principle event, the Blue Circle Cement Chase, I rely on another Winter horse, Count Kinure. And I cannot oppose that highly impressive Lingfield winner, Venture to Cognac—yet another Uplands representative—*in* the Philip Cornes Hurdle Qualifier.

ASCOT

1.00—Major Swallow**
1.35—Venture to Cognac***
2.10—Count Kinure
2.40—Silver Buck
3.15—Alverton

NEW YORK

SPAIN ♥

BRAZIL

GERMANY ♦

BRUSSELS/LUXEMBOURG

PARIS

STOCKHOLM

COPENHAGEN ♦

SWITZERLAND ♦

MILAN

AUSTRALIA

AMSTERDAM

OSLO

TOKYO ¶

VIENNA

JOHANNESBURG

CANADA

Pemex offered Spanish stake

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

PEMEX, Mexico's National Oil Corporation, has been offered a 15 per cent stake in Petronor, which owns one of Spain's leading refineries. The offer follows strong interest by a Pemex delegation which has just visited Spain. Pemex is anxious to break into downstream operations in Europe, but this is the first time it has obtained a firm offer.

The Petronor refinery at Bilbao is being expanded to a 12m ton capacity. The management is attracted by the idea of incorporating Pemex as a partner. With 35 per cent of its crude needs being supplied by Iran and almost two-thirds coming from the Gulf, Petronor is anxious to diversify its sources to include Mexico. Mexican crude, according to Petronor executives, presents no technical problems for the refinery.

Petronor's main shareholders are the state petroleum distribution monopoly, Campsa, with 34 per cent, and Gulf Oil, with 33 per cent. Last year, Gulf hinted that it was considering some diverstiture, but so far no agreement has been reached on how the existing shareholders would be affected. Petronor, which also owns four tankers, is capitalised at Pta 4.2bn ($60m).

Pension fund backs Volvo

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE IN STOCKHOLM

THE BOARD of the Fourth National Pensions Fund, which holds 5.2 per cent of the Volvo shares and 5.6 per cent of the voting rights, decided yesterday to vote in favour of the sale of 40 per cent of the Swedish car and truck manufacturer to Norway at the extraordinary shareholders' meeting on January 30.

Two of the 11 Board members dissented. The fund's managing director, Mr. Lennart Dahlstroem, also opposed the Volvo-Norway deal, which he claimed, would be to the disadvantage of the fund's pensioners. But Mr. Dahlstroem said he would vote for the Norwegian agreement at the shareholders' meeting in accordance with his Board's instructions.

FOREIGN TAKEOVERS IN AUSTRALIA

A contrast in attitudes

BY JAMES FORTH

The announcement by Rio Tinto-Zinc, the UK mining house, that the Australian ownership of its subsidiary, Conzinc Riotinto of Australia is to be raised to 51 per cent, comes immediately after permission for Pilkington Brothers to raise its interest in Sola Holdings to 100 per cent. But the Pilkington decision contrasts sharply with the attitude to other foreign bids for Australian companies

THE Australian Government's approval of the A$41.75m (U.S.$48m) bid for Sola Holdings, the local group, by Pilkington Brothers of the UK, goes against the trend of foreign take-overs. The difference is that Pilkington has been given approval to acquire 100 per cent of Sola. This is in marked contrast to other recent bids by foreign groups, where approval has only been granted after a commitment to retain or re-introduce local equity in the target company. In some cases bids are still awaiting approval months after they were first announced, with the question of local equity reportedly one of the major factors behind the delay.

The most notable case was the A$34m bid for the local tea and coffee group, Bushells Investments, by Brooke Bond Liebig of the UK. The first approach was rejected by the Government on the grounds that it was not in the national interest. This apparently boiled down to a desire that a substantial local equity should be retained in Bushells, which was an old-established company, and its products a household name. Brooke Bond finally obtained approval, but only after it agreed first to sell a 25 per cent stake in its local activities to Australia's largest life office, the AMP Society, and give a commitment that it would increase the local stake, through a public flotation, within three to five years to at least 51 per cent.

Textron of the U.S. ran into similar difficulties with an A$14m bid for the greeting card and printing group, John Sands Holdings. It was only after the U.S. group agreed to retain a local equity of at least 25 per cent that approval was obtained. Hallmark Cards of the U.S. has been less fortunate. Last September Hallmark, which already holds 28 per cent of the capital of Specialty Press, announced an A$6m bid for the company. In November the Government placed an interim order on Specialty, under the terms of the Foreign Takeovers Act. This freezes the deal for up to a maximum of 90 days to give the Government time to make a more detailed investigation of the proposal.

As with other bids, the question of retaining a local equity is believed to be a major reason behind the delay. British Petroleum Company of Australia is yet another case. Almost six months ago, BP announced that it had offered A$169m to buy the remaining 50 per cent of the coal producer, Clutha Development, from Daniel K. Ludwig of the U.S. BP had bought the other 50 per cent from the same seller about 18 months earlier. The deal has yet to be approved. It is worth noting that when BP announced its offer the directors said they recognised the aspirations of the Australian and New South Wales Governments for the introduction of local participation and were "actively examining" the means by which this might be achieved.

The main reason why Pilkington got a different reception is that it planned to feed its considerable technology through to Sola. Presumably this was considered to be in the national interest. In fact, Pilkington was attracted to Sola because of the Australian company's own high technology.

Sola makes optical lenses, equipment and accessories. It has particular expertise in the area of plastic ophthalmic precision lenses. Sola began only 18 years ago as an instrument-making offshoot of an Adelaide optician, Laubman and Pank (the chairman of the company is now Mr. David L. Pank).

Its products have become recognised world-wide.

About 70 per cent of the company's sales are exported and Sola manufactures in several countries, including the U.S., Brazil, Singapore, Japan, Italy and Britain. Sola has for many years been a customer of Pilkington — ophthalmic plastic lenses are cast in glass moulds. Pilkington was interested in developing in the plastic lens field, and could either develop its own technology or buy it. The UK group decided that Sola had a lead in this field and that it would rather buy.

The Premier of South Australia, Mr. Don Dunstan, has welcomed the deal, which he said would make Adelaide a major research centre in Australia through the expansion of activities by Sola and Pilkington.

In a letter to Sola shareholders recommending the Pilkington offer, Mr. Pank said the question of whether the Board should recommend the sale of 100 per cent of the capital, or some lesser amount, was carefully considered.

"Our investigations revealed that the only practical way to obtain an unrestricted flow of all aspects of technology to enable Sola to continue its development world-wide was for Pilkington Brothers to acquire 100 per cent of the equity," he said. "Furthermore a minority position would have disadvantaged the remaining shareholders."

Factors which were considered vital by Sola directors, and presumably the Government, were continuance of Sola in Australia (under Australian management), accelerated growth through the merging of technology and job security and employment opportunity. Two directors of Sola will join the board of Pilkington's optical division while three executives of Sola and some executives of Sola subsidiaries, will enter into three year service agreements to remain with the company.

Pilkington has said that it already controls almost 80 per cent of Sola's capital. Its bid will remain open until February but there is little prospect of any hitch. Pilkington is offering A$2.65 cash for each Sola share. Although a public company, Sola is not listed on the stock exchanges, although a public float has several times been looked at. However, an unofficial market has existed for some time in Adelaide. Between April and September last year most of the sales which took place in Sola were about 90 cents, or just over one-third of the Pilkington offer price.

Unisec group simplifies control structure

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

UNISEC, the South African investment group, has reached agreement with the South African Reserve Bank on the means of tidying up its control structure. Of Unisec's 49.8m issued shares, 5m were held by Luxembourg-registered Tolux, itself 90 per cent-owned by Unisec, through its wholly-owned South African subsidiary Luxot. The situation whereby Unisec's own dividends were recycled after deduction of non-resident shareholders' taxes had become anomalous.

Tolux is now selling Luxot to Unisec for R6.07m ($7m), being an independent valuation of Luxot's net asset value. The funds will accrue to Tolux as securities rands payable in Johannesburg. To finance the arrangement, Unisec is selling 90 per cent of its Tolux holding, equivalent to 81.5 per cent of Tolux's capital, to a non-South African consortium.

This is on the understanding that no member of the consortium either alone or in association with others will control 30 per cent or more of Tolux's issued capital.

The arrangement means that Unisec can now cancel the 5m shares held by Tolux. More to the point is what is planned for the R6.07m in securities rands held by Tolux as its prime asset.

For the present, the proceeds are being placed in the South African money market, although their say there will almost certainly be brief.

Philips Nederland growth threatened by increasing costs

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

PHILIPS NEDERLAND, the domestic sales organisation of the international electronics group, must achieve a higher rate of growth this year than in 1978 if it is to keep up with rising costs, Mr. J. J. Tuyt, managing director of the sales group, said. This should be possible in the area of consumer goods although there will be downward pressure on prices, he said.

In the professional products sector, investment in electronic apparatus is higher than general investment levels. More and more computer controlled telephone exchanges are being installed, and there are also goods prospects for new systems at traffic junctions and for traffic telecommunication systems.

Systems for maritime traffic will represent a considerable part of the company's turnover, Mr. Tuyt said. Philips expects to get a contract for the installation of a ships' radar system on the estuary of the western Schelde this year.

Investment by industry was higher than expected in 1978, although growth was smaller than in previous years. Little change is expected in these moderate growth levels in the current year. A modest increase in wages will allow only a small increase in real consumption levels, while Philips does not have high hopes of increased investment by industry. Despite the difficult situation Philips Nederland maintained its market position.

Deliveries to domestic and foreign customers from Philips' companies in Holland accounted for a quarter of Philips' world deliveries of Fl 41.5bn ($20.6bn) in 1977. Excluding intercompany deliveries, sales were Fl 31.2bn.

Heineken sales support steady profits expansion

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

SALES AT Heineken the Dutch beer, spirits and soft drinks group, in the first three months of the current book year supported the profits forecast made in the annual report, the company announced. The report, published in December, said that Heineken expected no major change in profit developments this year after the 8 per cent increase in the net result in 1977-78.

Heineken is considering introducing an interim dividend payment, although it is not certain that this will happen this year, it emerged from the company's shareholders' meeting. The meeting approved Heineken's decision to align the financial year with the calendar year. This will mean that the current reporting period will cover 15 months.

The net profit was Fl 118.7m ($59.6m) in the year ended September 30 on sales which also increased by 8 per cent to Fl 2.67bn ($1.34bn).

Landis plans rights issue

ZUG — Landis und Gyr, the Swiss electrical engineering concern, intends to pay an unchanged SwFr 20 dividend for 1977-78 and proposes a rights issue of one-for-15, priced at par.

Total earnings for the year to September 30 were SwFr 47.8m, up from SwFr 41.2m.

The value of goods produced fell by 3.2 per cent to SwFr 1.03bn, following the exchange appreciation of the franc. Reuter

COMMODITIES/Review of the week

Lead prices soar to new peak

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

LEAD PRICES soared to record levels on the London Metal Exchange yesterday as the "squeze" on available supplies tightened. The cash price jumped by £45.5 to £519 a tonne, £50.5 up on the week. The three months was £34.25 higher on the week at £482.5.

Dealers said that the "crunch" had arrived for sellers to meet their commitments and this had brought some near-panic buying when it became evident that there was a dearth of new supplies coming to the market.

Warehouse stocks this week are expected to show little change. But further heavy outgoings are predicted in the weks ahead following continued buying by the Soviet Union and other consumers. Stocks are already at the lewest level for nearly five years.

Copper prices also advanced strongly to reach the highest levels since May 1977. Forecasts of a substantial fall in warehouse stocks this week, and big declines to come, lifted the cash wirebars price by £14.75 yesterday to £824.75 a tonne, £43.25 higher on the week.

The continuing decline in stocks and shortage of good quality brands and concentrates is the main influence behind the rise. But the market was also boosted by a series of U.S. domestic copper price rises, reports Kennecott, the biggest U.S. producer joining the general scramble for supplies and that Zambian output would be 13 per cent lower this year.

In contrast tin prices fell away on reports of fresh arrivals relieving the shortage in Europe, a downturn in Penang, and expectations that U.S. stockpile releases could be authorised shortly.

London cocoa futures prices fell sharply yesterday following the announcement of an unexpectedly-high Ghana main crop purchase figure.

Weekly purchases by the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board have been declining in recent weeks and most dealers expected this trend to continue with purchases of no more than 8,000 tonnes this week.

But the Board announced yesterday that purchases for the 14th week of the season (ended January 11) totalled 11,826 tonnes, bringing the cumulative total for the season to 211,595 tonnes.

Dealers responded by marking prices lower and by the close May delivery cocoa futures were quoted at £1,918.25 a tonne, down £62.75 on the day and £72.25 on the week.

Cocoa prices fell on Monday following the announcement of a 14.7 per cent rise in U.S. grindings in the final quarter of last year to 49,897 tonnes. This figure was in line with most market forecasts but evidently disappointed some speculators who had been led to expect a rise of as much as 22 per cent.

The market is now awaiting West German and UK fourth quarter grindings figures which are currently expected to be slightly higher and unchanged respectively.

Coffee traders had a generally quiet week with prices falling away after edging higher on Monday. By last night's close the March position on the London futures market had eased to £1,341.5 a tonne, down £25 on the week.

Sr. Cammilo Calazans, president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute, announced this week that Brazil earned $2.3m from coffee exports last year and forecast a similar performance this year.

World raw sugar prices drifted lower in the absence of any significant fundamental developments. The London daily price ended the week £2 lower at £94 a tonne but the whites price was £2 higher at £95.

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

[illegible]

BASE METALS

COPPER—Gained ground in active trading on the London Metal Exchange, following forecasts of a substantial fall in warehouse stocks over the week and in the near future. Forward metal opened at £840 but fell back to £836 on profit-taking on the pre-market. In the morning rings the price rallied to £839 at which level it traded for the rest of the day until renewed interest on the late kerb saw it rise to £840.5 prior to a close of £840. Turnover 17,900 tonnes.

COPPER	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Wirebars				
Cash	824.5-5	+14	824.5-5	+14½
3 months	838-.5	+15	839-.5	+13½
Settl'm'nt	825	+14	—	—
Cathodes				
Cash	807-.5	+13	807-8	+13.5
3 months	826-.5	+12½	826-.5	+14.5
Settl'm'nt	807.5	+12.5	—	—
U.S. Smt.	—	—	*73-5	—

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning cash wirebars traded at £824, 24.5, 25, three months £837, 38, 38.5, 39, 39.5, 39, 39.5, 38, 38.5. Cathodes, cash £826.5, 26, three months £807, 7.5. Kerb: Wirebars, three months £838.5, 38, 37. Afternoon: Wirebars, cash £825, three months £838, 39.5, 38, 39.5, 40, 39.5. Cathodes, three months £826, 27, 26.5, 26. Kerb: Wirebars, three months £840, 39.5, 39, 39.5, 40, 40.5, 40.

TIN—Barely changed. After falling to £6,690 on the pre-market reflecting the downturn in Penang forward metal recovered on cash buying which prompted a rise in forward metal to £6,755 on the late Kerb. Turnover, 1,280 tonnes.

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
High Grade	£	£	£	£
Cash	6790-800	—115	6830-50	+55
3 months	6730-50	—110	6790-805	+7.5
Settlem't	6800	—120	—	—
Standard				
Cash	6765-75	—125	6820-30	+35
3 months	6705-15	—127½	6760-5	+10
Settlem't	6775	—125	—	—
Straits, E.	‡$1775	—39		
New York	—	—		

Morning: Standard, cash £6,770, three months £6,710, £6,695, 90, £6,700, £6,710. High Grade, cash £6,780, £6,800. Kerbs: Standard, three months £6,700, 15, 20. Afternoon: Standard, cash £6,810, 30, three months £6,730, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 60. Kerbs: Standard, three months £7,800, 55, 50, 55.

LEAD—Record levels were attained by both cash and forward metal following covering against heavy physical demand and a tightening of the nearby supply situation. Forward metal opened at £452 and rose to £455 on the pre-market before easing to £448 on profit-taking. However, in the morning and afternoon rings the price advanced strongly following renewed covering, which was thought to reflect Soviet physical buying. At the close forward metal was quoted at a record £463 while cash material traded at £518. Turnover 31,050 tonnes.

[illegible]

prior to easing to £629.5 on the late kerb. Warehouse stocks are expected to show a fairly substantial increase over the week. Turnover 4,525 tonnes.

Alumin'm	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£		£	
Spot	629.5-30.5	+1.5	632.5-4	+3.25
3 months	628-9	+1.25	630.5-1	+3

* Cents per pound. ‡ $M per picul. † On previous unofficial close.

Morning: Three months £629, 30, 29, 29.5, 29. Afternoon: Three months £629.5, 30, 30.5, 31. Kerb: Three months £630, 29.5.

SILVER

Silver was fixed 1.05p an ounce lower for spot delivery in the London bullion market yesterday at 298.25p. U.S. cent equivalents of the fixing levels were: spot 593.5c, down 5.8c; three-month 606.3c, down 6.4c; six-month 617.8c, down 6.6c; and 12-month 644.6c, down 6.6c. The metal opened at 298-299p (593-594½c) and closed at 297½-298½p (594-595½c).

SILVER per troy oz.	Bullion fixing price	+ or —	L.M.E. close	+ or —
Spot	298.25p	—1.05	298.3p	+0.65
3 months	306.25p	—0.95	306.2p	+0.65
6 months	313.45p	—0.95	—	—
12 months	329.5p	—0.9	—	—

LME—Turnover 200 (274) lots of 10,000 ozs. Morning: Three months 306.3, 6, 6.1, 6, 5.9. Kerb: Three months 305.8. Afternoon: Three months 306.3, 6.4, 6.3. Kerbs: Three months 305.9, 6.1, 6.3, 6.1.

COCOA

A satisfactory Ghana purchase figure (11,826 tons) caused Commission House liquidation and with no underlying demand for cocoa futures continued to ease throughout the day to close at the lows £65 down on last night's levels, Gill and Duffus reports.

COCOA	Yesterday's Close	+ or —	Business Done
March	1877.0-80.0	—65.0	1958.0-18.0
May	1918.0-18.5	—62.0	1990.0-19.0
July	1951.0-52.0	—62.0	2005.0-19.0
Sept	1953.0-54.0	—57.0	2014.0-19.0
Dec	1970.0-74.0	—66.0	2055.0-19.0
March	1975.0-78.0	—52.0	2075.0-18.0
May	1985.0-90.0	—45.0	—

Sales: 5,436 (2,830) lots of 10 tonnes.

International Cocoa Organisation (U.S. cents per pound): Daily price for Jan. 11 174.47 (173.84). Indicator price for Jan. 12: 15-day average 175.98 (176.23); 22-day average 176.89 (177.11).

COFFEE

ROBUSTAS steadied to last night's close in hesitant trading, Drexel Burnham Lambert reports. News of lower offering from Columbia was more than offset by the weakness of Sterling and the market remained firm. Final values were about unchanged on balance.

[illegible]

WHEAT M'nth	Yesterday's close	+ or —	BARLEY Yesterday's close	+ or —
Jan.	91.95	....	84.30	—0.15
Mar.	93.15	+0.05	86.05	—0.05
May	95.85	....	88.55	....
Sept.	90.15	—0.05	84.30	....
Nov.	93.05	....	87.25	....

Business done—Wheat: Jan. 91.15-91.15, March 93.15-93.00, May 95.85-95.75, Sept. 90.15-90.15, Nov. 93.05-93.10. Sales: 46. Barley: Jan. 84.30-84.10, March 86.05-85.95, May 88.55-88.50, Sept. 84.30-84.30, Nov. 87.25-87.25. Sales: 186.

HGCA—Location ex-farm spot prices. Feed wheat: Norfolk 88.20. Feed barley: Norfolk 82.00; Devon 80.00.

The UK monetary coefficient for the week beginning January 15 (based on HGCA calculations) is expected to remain unchanged.

IMPORTED—Wheat: CWRS No. 1 13½ per cent unquoted. U.S. Dark Northern Spring No. 2 14 per cent Jan.-Feb.-March 89.75 transhipment East Coast. U.S. Hard Winter 13½ per cent Jan.-Feb.-March 85.75 transhipment East Coast. EEC unquoted. Maize — U.S./French unquoted. French Jan. 107.50 quoted East Coast. South African White Jan. 69.00. South African Yellow Jan. 69.00. Barley: English feed fob Jan. 87.00, Feb. 87.75, April-June 90.75 East Coast.

RUBBER

UNCHANGED opening on the London physical market. Little interest throughout the day, closing on a week note. Lewis and Peat reported the Malaysian godown price was 238 (same) cents a kilo (buyer, February).

No. 1 R.S.S.	Yesterday's Close	Previous Close	Business Done
Feb.	58.50-57.20	57.50-57.70	57.50
Mar.	57.50-57.95	58.25-58.50	—
Apr-Jne	58.25-59.35	59.85-60.00	60.05-58.10
Jy-Sept.	61.40-61.50	61.95-62.00	62.50-61.35
Oct-Dec	63.55-63.95	64.15-64.25	64.45-65.90
Jan-Mar	65.80-65.85	66.50-66.45	66.50
Apr-Jne	68.05-68.10	68.60-68.65	68.10
Jy-Sept.	70.25-70.50	70.85-71.00	70.80-70.15
Oct-Dec	72.40-72.45	75.15-75.20	75.00-72.40

Physical closing prices (buyers) were: Spot 55.75p (58.75); Feb. 57.75p (58.25); March 58.25p (58.75).

Sales: 1 (2) lots of 5 tonnes; 377 (320) lots of 15 tonnes.

SOYABEAN MEAL

	Yesterday Close	+ or —	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
February	127.90-27.5	+1.50	27.10-26.50
April	125.10-25.2	+1.70	25.20-24.60
June	122.90-23.1	+0.90	23.00-22.50
August	122.90-25.1	+0.90	23.00-22.10
October	122.60-24.5	—0.90	—
December	120.00-26.0	....	—
February	120.50-26.5	....	—

Sales: 96 (84) lots of 100 tonnes.

SUGAR

LONDON DAILY PRICES (raw sugar) [illegible]

GRAINS

LONDON FUTURES (GAFTA) [illegible]

MEAT/VEGETABLES

SMITHFIELD (pence per pound)—Chickens 2 to 6 lb 28 to 33. Capons over 6 lb 38.0 to 40.0. Ducklings 4 to over 5 lb 48.0 to 51.0.

COVENT GARDEN—Prices in sterling per package except where stated: Imported Produce: Lemons—Italian: 120s new crop 5.75-6.00; Cypriot: trays 4.50-5.50; boxes 80/180s 4.50-6.00; Californian: cartons 90/165s 6.00-8.00. Oranges—Spania: Navels/Navelines 3.20-3.80; Egyptian: Baladi 2.60-2.80; Israeli: Shamouti 3.70-4.80. Sevilles—Spanish: 6.20. Clementines—Cypriot: 10 kilos 3.20-3.60; Moroccan: 3.60-4.20. Satsumas—Spania: trays 2.80-3.20. Grapefruit—Texas: Red Blush 4.50-4.80; Florida: 4.80; Cypriot: 2.20-3.60; Israeli: Jaffa: 40/75 3.55-4.05. Apples—French: Stark Crimson 40 lb 138/163s 4.40-4.80, 20 lb 84s 2.10, 72s 2.30-2.40, Golden Delicious 20 lb 72s 2.20-2.60, 84s 2.00-2.10, 40 lb 138/163/175s 3.60-4.20, jumble pack, per pound 0.08, Granny Smith 20 lb 72s 2.40-2.50, 84s 2.20, large boxes 138/150/163 4.20-4.60, jumble pack 55/60 31 lb per pound 0.07. Bananas—Jamaican: per pound 0.14-0.15. Grapes—Spanish: Almeria 2.30-2.80, Negri 2.80-3.00; Californian: Red Emperor 20/23 lb 8.50. Avocados—Israeli: 3.80-3.90. Melons—Spanish: Green 7.00, 15-kilo boxes 12/15s 11.00. Onions—Spanish: 5.80; Dutch: 3.00. Tomatoes—Spanish: 2.20-2.80; Canary: 3.30-4.20. Cucumbers—Canary: 10/16s 2.00-2.60; Spanish: 10/16 1.80-2.00. Capsicums—Canary: 0.25. Cauliflowers—Jersey: 24 9.00; French: 8.50. Cabbages—Calabrese 3.00. Fennel—Italian: 3.00. Lettuces—Dutch: 24s 4.20; French: 12s 1.80-2.00. Celery—Spanish: 15/30s 4.00-5.00; Italian: 3.50. Potatoes—Italian: boxes 20 lb 3.50; Canary: 12½ kilos 4.50. Peaches—S. African: 23/28s 1.80-2.00. Apricots—S. African: per pound 0.50. Dates—Algerian: per glove box 0.38-0.43; Californian: tubs 0.30. Walnuts—Californian: per pound 0.40; Chinese: 0.30-0.31. Brazils—per pound LWM 0.42-0.44, Tocantins 0.36-0.37. Filberts—Italian: per pound 0.30-0.31.

English Produce: Potatoes—per 25 kilos 2.00-2.10. Lettuces—per 12 round 1.30. Mushrooms—per pound 0.50-0.60. Apples—per pound Bramley 0.06-0.14. Cox's Orange Pippin 0.05-0.13; Worcester Pearmain 0.04-0.05; Spartan 0.08-0.10. Pears—per pound Conference 0.09-0.15, Comice 0.15-0.20. Cabbages—per crate 1.50-1.80. Beetroots—per 28 lb 1.00. Carrots—per 28 lb 1.00-1.20. Onions—per bag 2.80-3.40. Rhubarb—per pound 0.24-0.25. Swedes—per 28 lb 1.30-1.50. Turnips—per 28 lb 1.20-1.30. Parsnips—per 28 lb 1.20-1.80. Sprouts—per pound 0.08-0.09.

*

GRIMSBY FISH — Supply poor demand good. Prices at ship's side (unprocessed) per stone: Shelf cod £5.50-£7.20, codlings £3.00-£4.00; small haddock £3.80-£4.20; large plaice £3.80, £4.30, medium plaice £4.00-£4.30, best small plaice £4.20-£4.90; large skinned dogfish £9.00, medium £6.00; large lemon soles £8.00, medium £6.50.

*

LONDON GREASY—Close (in order buyer, seller): March 210-208, May 218-214, July 225-220, Oct. 240-234, Dec. 242-235, March 244-236, May 250-239, July 250-239. Sales: nil.

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.

Copper—Jan. 72.10 (71.20), Feb. 72.45 (71.55), March 73.15, May 74.50, July 75.60, Sept. 76.50, Dec. 77.50, March 78.50, May 79.15, July 79.90, Sept. 80.45.

‖Soyabean Meal—Jan. 189.70-189.50 (187.50), March 190.00-189.90 (123.70), May 189.70-189.90, July 189.70-189.50, Aug. 190.00, Sept. 189.30, Oct. 186.50-187.20, Dec. 186.50-187.00, Jan. 187.30-187.00.

Soyabean Oil — Jan. 24.97-24.95 (24.81), March 24.17-24.13 (24.94), May 25.05, July 25.00-24.90, Aug. 24.90-24.95, Sept. 24.25, Oct. 23.70-23.75, Dec. 23.60-23.55, Jan. 23.40, March 23.35-23.50.

Soyabeans—Jan. 687½-687 (679½), March 699½-701 (692½), May 707½-709, July 712½-713, Aug. 707½, Sept. 683½, Nov. 670-671, Jan. 678½.

Tin—623.00-635.00 asked (630.00-640.00).

CHICAGO, Jan. 12.

†Lard—Chicago loose 24.50 (same). NY prime steam 25.00 (25.00) traded.

Live Cattle—Jan. 61.82 (62.17), Feb. 62.00-62.17 (62.15), April 64.25-64.20, June 65.00-65.10, Aug. 64.00-64.10, Oct. 63.20, Dec. 63.32, Jan. 63.20, Feb. 63.90, April 63.85. Sales: 27.488.

Plywood—Jan. 21.45 (21.44), March 21.20 (21.07), May 20.78, July 20.54-20.50, Sept. 20.27, Nov. 20.10-20.05, Jan. 20.00.

Shell eggs—Jan. 59.20 (58.60), Feb. 55.55 (55.30), March 55.10, April 50.20, May 49.55, Sept. 57.25. Sales: 124.

‡‡Maize—March 332½-332½ (330½), May 241-240¾ (338½), July 245½-245, Sept. 246½-246¾, Dec. 250-250½, March [illegible].

Silver—Jan. 59.77 (59.23), Feb. 60.04 (59.50), March 60.39, May 61.15, July 62.00, Sept. 62.86, Dec. 64.21, Jan. 64.68, March 65.63, May 66.58, July 67.54, Sept. 68.51.

All cents per pound ex-warehouse unless otherwise stated. * $s per troy ounce—100-ounce lots. † Chicago loose $s per 100 lbs—Dept. of Ag. prices previous day. Prime steam fob NY bulk tank cars. ‡ Cents per 56-lb bushel ex-warehouse, 5,000-bushel lots. § $s per troy ounce for 50-oz units of 99.9 per cent purity delivered NY. ¶ Cents per troy ounce ex-warehouse. ‖ New "B" contract in $s a short ton for bulk lots of 100 short tons delivered fob cars Chicago, Toledo, St. Louis and Alton. ** Cents per 59-lb bushel in store. †† Cents per 24-lb bushel. ‡‡ Cents per 48-lb bushel ex-warehouse. §§ Cents per 56-lb bushel ex-warehouse, 1,000-bushel lots. ¶¶ C$s per tonne.

EUROPEAN MARKETS

PARIS, Jan. 12. [illegible]

ROTTERDAM, Jan. 12. [illegible]

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES [illegible]

DOW JONES [illegible]

MOODY'S [illegible]

REUTERS [illegible]

Haulage bosses urged to stick on 15% offer

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Road Haulage Association was urged by the Confederation of British Industry last night not to raise the 15 per cent pay offer made to the striking lorry drivers.

A meeting of the Confederation's 20-man president's committee, comprising top industrialists, decided that the risk of the "going rate" of pay deals being pushed up was too great if the 15 per cent were *raised*.

The industrialists expressed grave concern about the impact of the drivers' strike on business. They fear that export orders may be lost and this could raise unemployment.

The Confederation is not calling yet for the Government to declare a State of Emergency. It believes that the Government should immediately change existing labour legislation so that workers could only picket outside their own employer's premises.

This would be done by removing immunities contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations Acts on sympathy action. Pickets could then be taken to court through civil proceedings by companies which *are not involved in a dispute* but whose premises are picketed.

Ministers who have held informal meetings with Confederation leaders during the past few days have been urged to consider making this legislative change. The Confederation is also urging MPs to raise the idea when Parliament debates the crisis next Tuesday.

Food council blames outside influences

BY CHRISTOPHER PARKES

THE HAULIERS' picketing *which has severely hit the UK* food industry in the past few days was engineered by people outside the official trade union movement, Sir Hector Laing, chairman of the Food and Drink Industries Council, alleged yesterday.

"Someone from outside is *mucking* things up and I think it is in all our interests to find out who it is," he said.

Admitting he was shaken by the rapidity with which the pickets had pushed food processors to the brink of crisis, Sir Hector, who is also chairman of United Biscuits, based his claim on talks with "two senior union officials—one near enough to the transport scene."

Sources close to the council said Sir Hector's contacts were among union officials sitting on the food industry "Little Neddy."

The action had been planned for some time before it was implemented, said Sir Hector. It *was very well organised*, but he did not know where the funds came from.

The shortages and panic buying would do most harm to the elderly and infirm and those with limited resources who could not lay in reserves of food.

"To use force to deny animals feed and make life more difficult than it is already for the elderly and infirm is unacceptable in *our society*."

Sir Hector had offered to see Mr. Moss Evans, general secretary of the lorry drivers' union, the Transport and General, to put the food industry's case for special treatment, but his invitation had not been accepted.

Mr. Tim Fortescue, secretary general of the council, said he had been shaken by the organisation and speed of the pickets.

"But what really surprised me was the way the dockers agreed to co-operate within five minutes. The co-operation was

Educational information network established

BY MICHAEL DIXON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is to spend £35,000 a year on an information centre as part of a network being established throughout the nine EEC countries for the exchange of data on educational matters.

Issues on which the network will disseminate information will include the transition of youngsters from school to work, the development of langugae-teaching, the schooling of migrant workers 'children, and higher education.

The British centre will be at the Slough headquarters of the National Foundation for Educational Research. Funds for the project will be channelled partly through the Foundation and partly through the Department of Education and Science.

Small concerns generate jobs

MORE THAN 300 jobs have been created in Livingston, near Edinburgh, by small industries opening there, 14 of which are taking on new staff or are established.

Cigarette price rise

BY OUR CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRICES OF five cigarette brands manufactured by Carreras Rothmans are going up by 1p. The increase, which has been given the go-ahead by the Price Commission, is the second in six months.

The brands are Piccadilly Filter, Mild, and No. 7, Guards, and Black Cat No. 9 and the new prices, which come into effect on January 24, will range from 51p to 53p.

The increases apply to the five lowest-price brands of the 27 sold by the company in the UK and the company said yesterday they were due to cost increases "right across the board."

● British-American Tobacco is to launch a milder version of its State Express 555 king-size brand, introduced to the UK last year.

The move, next month, is expected to intensify the fierce competition for shares in the king-size market.

SINGAPORE

Jan. 12	$	Jan. 12	$
Industrials		Straits Trdg	5.75
Bovis	—	Times Pub. Berhad	8.08
Boust'ad Co	1.85	U. Engin'ers	1.35
Boust'ad Bd	5.36	U. Ov's Bk	5.26
Dunlop	†4.46	Wearnes	2.72
Esso	3.86	Tractors	5.15
Fraser Neave	5.15	Chemical	4.88xd
Haw Par	1.58	Wilm. Jacks	‡1.36
Hume Ind	1.86	Rubbers	
Inchcape	1.62	Btu.Lintang	†1.90
Malay Brew	5.80	Dunlop Est.	3.70
Malay Cemt	‡2.85xd	Kempas	4.02
Met.BxSing	†2.78	Tins	
Ov's ChinBk	7.95	Austral.Am.	—
Pan El'stric	1.40	Berjuntai	7.05
Robins'n Co.	2.37	Kampar	—
Rothman	2.84	Kuchai	1.48
Shell	2.78	Lower Perak	—
Sime Darby	5.26	PetalingTin	—
Cold St'r'ge	2.22	SupremeCp	1.80
StraitsSte'm	2.53	Tongkah Har.	†2.60
Straits Tms (1975) Ltd.	7.75		

† Buyer. ‡ Seller. xd Ex dividend.

Stock Exchange dealings

Thursday, January 11	4,151
Wednesday, January 10	4,380
Tuesday, January 9	5,376
Monday, January 8	3,596
Friday, January 5	4,144
Thursday, January 4	3,580

The list below records all last Thursday's marking and also the latest markings during the previous four trading days of any share not marked on Thursday. The latter can be distinguished by the date (in parentheses).

The number of dealings marked on Thursday in each section follows the name of the section. Unless otherwise denoted shares are £1 fully paid and stock £100 fully paid. Stock Exchange securities are quoted in pounds and fractions of pounds or in pence and fractions of pence.

The list below gives the prices at which bargains done by members of The Stock Exchange have been recorded in The Stock Exchange Daily Official List. Members are not obliged to mark bargains, except in special cases, and the list cannot, therefore, be regarded as a complete record of prices at which business has been done. Bargains are recorded in the Official List up to 2.15 pm only, but later transactions can be included in the following day's Official List. No indication is available as to whether a bargain represents a sale or purchase by members of the public. Markings are not necessarily in order of execution, and only one bargain in any one security at any one price is recorded.

‡ Bargains at Special Prices. Δ Bargains done with or between non-members. ⊕ Bargains done previous day. § Bargains done with members of a recognised Stock Exchange. ♣ Bargains done for delayed delivery or "no buying-in." $A—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malayan; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

BRITISH FUNDS (583)

[illegible]

INTL. BANK (—)

CORPORATIONS (28)

[illegible]

PUBLIC BOARDS (27)

[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH GOVTS. (9)

[illegible]

FOREIGN STOCKS (4)

[illegible]

FOREIGN CPNS. (—)

BANKS (178)

[illegible]

Toronto Dominion Bank (C$1) 13⅞ (9/1)
Trade Development Bank Hldg. (Br.) (US$1.50) US$10.45
Union Discount London 310 (10/1)

BREWERIES (114)

Allied Brews. (25p) 84 ½ 5 ½ 3½ 3. 5½pcPf. 46 (9/1). 3¼pcDb. 37 (5/1). 4¼pcDb. 75-80 91¾. Do. 79-84 74¼. 5¼pcDb. 75½ (9/1). 6¼pcDb. 84-89 67¼ (10/1). 6¾pcDb. 88-93 62¼⊕. 6¼pcLn. 44 (5/1). 7½pcLn. 53½ (9/1). 7¾pcLn. 62¼ (9/1)
Amalg. Distilled Prods. (10p) 31 (8/1)
Bass Charrington (25p) 167½⊕ 7 8 6. 7pcPf. 60 (10/1). 3¼pcDb. 95½ (8/1). 3½pcDb. 87-92 44½ (8/1). 8¼pcDb. 99¼ (8/1). 8¼pcDb. 87-92 69½. 4½pc Ln. 41½ (9/1). 7¾pcLn. 62½ (9/1)
Bell (Arthur) Sons (50p) 181½⊕ 4⊕ 2⊕
Boddingtons Brews. (25p) 87⊕ 8⊕
Border Brews. (25p) 76 (9/1)
Brown (Matthew) (25p) 118 (9/1)
Buckley's (25p) 46 (10/1)
Bulmer (H. P.) (25p) 147⊕ 6⊕. 9½pcPf. 99⊕

[illegible]

COMMERCIAL (2,331)

Bowater Corp. 175 3 4. 5½pcPf. 45½ (10/1). 3¾pcDb. 58½. 7pcLn. 79½ 80 78½
Bowthorpe Hldgs. (10p) 72⊕ 1½
Braby Leslie (10p) 69⊕
Brady Inds. (25p) 50 (9/1). A (25p) 50 (8/1)
Brabam Millar Group (10p) 29 (8/1)
Braid Group (5p) 35½ (5/1)
Bramall (C. D.) (25p) 79 (8/1)
Brammer (H.) (20p) 118 19 (9/1)
Breedon, Cloud Hill Lime Works (25p) 105
Bremner (25p) 49 ½ 50 12 12
Brengreen (Hldgs.) (10p) 12¼
Brent Chemicals Int. (10p) 193 5 (8/1)
Brent Walker (5p) 54
Brickhouse Dudley (10p) 52 1 (8/1)
Bridgend Processes (5p) 10½ 10
Bridon (25p) 108⊕ 9 8½. 10¼pcDb. 79¼ (9/1). 7¾pcLn. 55 (9/1)
Bridport-Gundry (Hldgs.) (20p) 35⊕
Bright (John) Group (25p) 35½
Bristol Evening Post (25p) 116. 10¼pcDb. 85½
British Aluminium 870 (5/1). 6pcPf. 46 (5/1)

[illegible]

United Engineering Industries (10p) 85
United Gas Industries (25p) 62½⊕. 10pc Pf. 63 (5/1)
United Newspapers (25p) 317 (10/1)
United Scientific (25p) 293 5
United Spring Steel (10p) 28⊕ 8
United-Wire (25p) 64 6 (9/1)
Unochrome International (10p) 12
Upton (E.) Sons A (25p) 42 (8/1)
Usher-Walker (10p) 60 (5/1)
Utico Holdings (R1) 43 (5/1)

Valor (25p) 56⊕ 2. 5¼pcPf. 65 (8/1)
Vantona Group (20p) 129. 4.9pcPf. 48½ (8/1)
Vectis Stone (10p) 45 (8/1)
Vibroplant Holdings (25p) 185 (8/1)
Vickers 190⊕ 90 88
Victor Products (Wallsend) (25p) 125 7 (8/1)

FINANCIAL TRUSTS (75)

Anglo-Continental Inv. Six-MonthRecsDb. 82 (9/1). 9½pcDb. 82 (9/1)
Armour Trust (10p) 15⊕
Boustead (10p) 64
Britannia Arrow (25p) 15½⊕ 17½
Charterhouse Grp. (25p) 64⊕ 5 3. 8½pc Uns.Ln. 64 (8/1)
Corinthian Hldgs. (10p) 35 (10/1)
Daily Mail Gen. Trst. (50p) 365 (10/1). A (50p) 357. 5pcPf. (50p) 18 (8/1)
Dalgety 308⊕ 11 8. 4.65pcPf. 52½ (8/1). 4½pcRd.Db. 89½ ½ (8/1)
Dawnay Day Grp. (25p) 29
Edinburgh Gen. Ins. (10p) 30 (10/1)

Ashdown Invest. Tst. (25p) 122⊕
Atlanta, Baltimore and Chicago Regional Invest. Tst. (10p) 54 (5/1)
Atlantic Assets Tst. (25p) 86⊕ 9. Do. 5pcPf. 35½⊕
Atlas Electric and Gen. Tst. (25p) 61. Do. 5pcPf. 41½ (5/1)
Bankers Invest. Tst. (25p) 57⅞ 6 (10/1)
Berry Tst. (25p) 69½⊕
Bishopsgate Tst. (25p) 170
Border and Southern Stockholders Tst. (10p) 59½⊕
Bremar Tst. (25p) 22½
Bridgewater Invest. (10p) 10⊕
British American and Gen. Tst. (25p) 39½

Le Valionet Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 32 (8/1)
London and Lennox Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 51 (8/1)
London and Lomond Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 7[illegible] (5/1)
London Montrose Invst. (25p) 182
London and Provincial Tt. (25p) 108½
London Atlantic Invtmt. Tt. (25p) [illegible] (10/1)
London Invtmt. Tt. (5p) 2½ 3 (9/1)
London Merchant Secs. (25p) 88
London Tt. Co. Dfd. (25p) 104⊕ 3
M. and G. Dual Tst. In. Shs. (10p) 205⊕ Cap.S. (10p) 107½
M. and G. Second Dual Tst. In.S. (10p) 75½ (10/1). Cap.S. (4p) 31½⊕
Mercantile Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 40⊕. 4½pcDb. 76 (9/1)
Merchants Tst. (25p) 71 (9/1)
Monks Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 47 (10/1)
Montagu Boston Invtmt. Tt. (10p) 52 (5/1). Warrants to sub. 32½⊕
Moorgate Invtmts. Co. (25p) 96⊕
Moorside Tt. (25p) 96½ (8/1)
New Throgmorton Tt. (25p) 20. Cp.Ln. 131½ 30 2⅛ 29⅞ ¼ 31½. Warrants to Pur. £1 Ln. 27½ (8/1)
Nineteen Twenty-Eight Invtmt. Tst. (25p) 68⊕
North Atlantic Securities Corp. (25p) 88
Northern American Tt. (25p) 96⊕ 3½pcPf. 28½ (5/1)
Northern Securities Tt. (25p) 118½ 17½ ¼
Outwich Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 57 (9/1)
Pentland Invtmt. Tt. (25p) 111½ (5/1). 5pcPf. 36 (8/1)
Provincial Cities Trust (25p) 27½ (5/1)
Raeburn Investment Trust (25p) 118 (10/1)
Rights and Issues Investment Trust Inc. (25p) 32 (10/1)
River Mercantile Trust (25p) 174 3 (10/1)
River Plate Gen. Invest. Trust Dfd. (25p) 143 (10/1)
Robeco (Rotterdamsch Beleg'gium N.V.) (Br.) (Fl. 50) $US54 (9/1). Sub.Shs. (Reg. Nat. Prov. Bk. (Nominees)) (Fl. 5) 567 5 80⊕
Rolinco N.V. (Fl.50) £48½ (8/1)
Rothschild Investment Trust (50p) 202½ (10/1). 4.2pcPf. 44½ (10/1)
St. Andrew Trust (25p) 115⊕. 3½pcDb. 1970-80 92 (5/1)
Save Prosper Linked Invest. Trust Inc. Shs. (10p) 147½⊕. Cap. Shs. (10p) 85½ (5/1)
Scottish American Invest. (50p) 81 80 ½ (10/1)

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Barnsley Metro. (0226 203232)	12	½-year	250	3-7
Burnley (0282 25011)	12½	½-year	500	5-7
East Lindsey (0507 3801)	12½	½-year	2,000	3-10
Horsham (0403 64191)	12½	½-year	1,000	5-7
Horsham (0403 64191)	12½	½-year	1,000	8-10
Knowsley (051-548 6555)	12½	½-year	1,000	6-10
Poole (02013 5151)	11½	½-year	500	2-3
Poole (02013 5151)	12½	½-year	500	5
Poole (02013 5151)	12½	½-year	500	6-7
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	12	½-year	200	4-5
Sefton (051 922 4040)	12	½-year	2,000	3-7
Wrekin (0952 505051)	12½	½-year	1,000	5-10

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'pn shares %	*Term Shares
Abbey National	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.
Aid to Thrift	8.25	8.75	—	—
Alliance	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3-4 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., 8.35 1 yr.
Anglia Hastings and Thanet	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3-4 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., 8.25 1 yr.
Bradford and Bingley	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.
Bridgwater	7.75	8.00	9.50	9.10 2½ yrs., 8.75 2 yrs.
Bristol and West	7.75	8.00	9.25	—
Bristol Economic	7.75	8.00	9.25	8.25 3 months' notice
Britannia	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs. 3 months not.
Burnley	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.
Cardiff	7.75	8.50	9.50	—
Catholic	7.50	●8.20	9.00	— ● 8.40 over £5,000
Chelsea	7.75	8.00	9.25	8.75 minimum £500, 6 months notice
Cheltenham and Gloucester	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., £500-£15,000
Citizens Regency	7.75	8.30	9.50	9.55 3 years
City of London	8.00	8.30	9.25	9.35 3 yrs. increment share min. £500
Coventry Economic	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs. min., 8.50 3 mths.' notice
Coventry Provident	7.75	8.00	10.00	9.25 3 yrs., 8.75 2 yrs., 8.25 1 yr.
Derbyshire	7.75	8.00	9.25	8.50 up to, 3 months' notice
Gateway	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3yrs., 8.5 2yrs., min. £500-£15,000
Guardian	7.75	8.25	8.50	8.95 £1,000 3 months' notice
Halifax	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.
Heart of England	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 3 months' notice
Hearts of Oak and Enfield	7.75	8.25	9.75	9.25 3-4 yrs., 9.00 2 yrs., 8.71 1 yr.
Hendon	8.00	8.50	—	9.00 6 months, minimum £2,000
Huddersfield and Bradford	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.
Leamington Spa	7.85	8.10	■10.97	8.85 2 years. ■ 3 years
Leeds Permanent	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., min. £1,000
Leicester	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., 8.25 3 mths.
Liverpool	7.75	8.00	9.45	9.10 3 yrs., 8.60 2 yrs., min. £1,000
London Goldhawk	7.75	†8.50	†9.75	†9.50 3 yrs., †9.25 2 yrs., †9.00 1 yr.
Melton Mowbray	7.85	8.10	9.25	8.85 2 yrs., minimum £2,000
Midshires	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., 8.25 1 yr.
Mornington	8.25	8.75	—	—
National Counties	8.00	8.30	9.30	9.40 6 mths., 8.75 3 mths., min. £1,000
Nationwide	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3-4 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., min. £500
Newcastle Permanent	7.75	8.00	9.30	9.30 3 yrs., 9.00 2 yrs.
New Cross	8.50	8.75	—	—
Northern Rock	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., min. £200
Norwich	7.75	8.00	9.50	9.00 3 yrs., 8.75 2 yrs., min. £200
Peckham Mutual	8.00	8.50	—	—
Portman	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.75 ½-yrly., 8.25 3 mths.
Principality	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3-4 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., min. £500
Progressive	8.00	8.25	9.25	9.00 2 yrs., 8.75 3 months' notice
Property Owners	7.75	8.50	9.75	9.00 3 months' notice
Provincial	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3-4 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.
Skipton	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs., 8.25 3 mths. not.
Sussex Mutual	7.75	8.35	10.00	9.30 3 yrs., 9.00 2 yrs., 8.75 1 yr.
Town and Country	7.75	8.00	✣10.00	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs. ✣ Max. £250
Walthamstow	7.75	8.10	9.20	9.15 3 yrs., 8.85 3 mths. not. min. £500
Woolwich	7.75	8.00	9.25	9.00 3 yrs., 8.50 2 yrs.

*Rates normally variable in line with changes in ordinary share rates.
† Includes 0.25% Centenary Bonus throughout 1979.
All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

Burmah Oil 89½⊕ 8⊕ 90½⊕ 88 9 90 87. 7¼pcPf. 51 (8/1). 8pcPf. 55½ (8/1). 7½pcLn. 65 (10/1). 8½pcLn. 59¼⊕ ¼
Century Oils Grp. (10p) 62 (9/1)
Charterhall (5p) 24½⊕ 5
Esso Petroleum 6pc1stDb. 89¼ (9/1)
Hunting Petroleum Services (25p) 84 (8/1)
KCA Intnl. (25p) 33½ 2½ (10/1)
London Scottish Marine Oil (25p) 134 5. Oil Prod. Units (10p) 385 (10/1). 14pc Ln. 101½ (10/1)
Oil Exploration (Hldgs.) (10p) 220⊕ 30‡
Premier Cons. Oilfields (5p) 18
Royal Dutch Petroleum (Br.) (Fl.20) 44½ ⅛
Shell Transport Trading (Reg.) (25p) 567⊕ 1⊕ 2⊕ 3 60 5 58 8‡ 9. (Br.) (25p) 572. 5½pc1stPf. 47 (8/1). 7pc2ndPf. 60⊕ 60‡
Texaco Intnl. Financial Corp. 4½pcLn. 52½
Tricentrol (25p) 154⊕ 5 3. (Foreign Held) (25p) 152 (10/1)
Ultramar (25p) 209 11 12 14‡ 13. 7pc Pfd. 127½ (5/1)

PROPERTY (133)

Alliance Property Hldgs. 9½pcDb. 70½ (9/1)
Allied London Props. (10p) 57 8 (10/1). 10pcPf. 96
Allnatt London Props. (25p) 235 (10/1)
Amalgamated Stores (5p) 12½⊕
Argyle Secs. 12pcDb 82 1¾ (9/1)
Avenue Close (20p) 79 (8/1)
Bampton Hldgs. 8¼pcUnsec.Ln. 51½ (5/1)
Bank and Commercial Hldgs. (10p) 3 (9/1)
Beaumont Props. (25p) 93 (8/1)
Bellway Hldgs. (25p) 84‡
Berkeley Hambro Property (25p) 150
Bilton (P.) (25p) 194
Bradford Property Tst. (25p) 280 (8/1)
British Land (25p) 45 ½ 6½ 6. 15pc1st Db. 106¼ (9/1). 12pcUnsec.Ln. 175 (8/1)
Brixton Estate (25p) 121
Capital and Counties Property (25p) 68. 6¼pc1stDb. 53½. 9¼pcUnsec.Ln. 71¾⊕ ½
Central and Dist. Prop. 6¾pcUnsec.Ln. 79 (5/1). 8pcSub.Ln. 52½ (10/1)
Centrovincial Ests. (20p) 94 ½ (8/1)
Chaddesley Invests. (10p) 54⊕ 6
Charlwood Alliance Hldgs. 7½pcUnsec.Ln. (50p) 21 (9/1)
Chesterfield Props. (25p) 365 (8/1)
Churchbury Ests. (25p) 345 (10/1)
City Offices (25p) 69 (8/1)
Commercial Props. 5pc1stDb. 68½ (5/1)
Country and New Town Props. (10p) 35½
County and District Props. (10p) 136‡ ½‡
Crampton Combined Secs. 8¼pc1stDb. 62 (9/1)
Daejan Hldgs. (25p) 110½ (10/1)
Dares Ests. (10p) 20 ½ (10/1)
Dorrington Invests. (10p) 65 (10/1)
English Prop. Cpn. (50p) 38‡ 7½ 9½‡ 8½
Evans of Leeds (25p) 95 (10/1)
Five Oaks Invests. (25p) 5½. 7pc2ndf. 30‡
Great Portland Ests. (50p) 226
Green (R.) Props. (10p) 38½ (10/1)
Greencoat Props. (5p) 8½ (9/1)
Guildhall Property (25p) 95½ 7 (5/1)
Hales Properties (25p) 50

SHIPPING (51)

Brit. Commonwealth (50p) 300
Caledonia (25p) 243 4 (5/1)
Common Bros. (50p) 198‡
Fisher (25p) 190⊕ 90
Furness Withy 238⊕ 70
Graig 130 (5/1)
Hunting Gibson 105⊕ 8
Isle of Man Steam Packet 215
Jacobs (20p) 43½ 2½
London Overseas (25p) 40½⊕ 40 39½ 40½
Ocean Transport Trading (25p) 109⊕ ½⊕ 10 ½
P and O Dfd. 87½ 8 7 6¼ ½. 5½pcDb. 89½

JANUARY 11

Ampol Pets. 61⊕ 59
Anglo United 218
Australian Foundation Inv. 82
Australian Oil and Gas 68
Bougainville Copper 145
Carpenter (W. R.) 117
General Mill $US28¼‡
Haw Par 52
Hong Kong Land 120 1 20½ 2
Jardine Matheson 184 5 3
Jardine Securities 37⊕ ½
Kulim Malaysia 47⊕
Metal Explm. 26½

Selangor Coconuts 93
Southland Mining 20⊕
Woodside Burmah 59

RULE 163 (2) (a)

Applications granted for specific bargains in securities not listed on any Stock Exchange.

JANUARY 11

Adnams B 615
Blythe Greene Jourdain 166

JANUARY 10 (Nil)

JANUARY 9

CCP North Sea Associates £11¾⊕ ½
Siebens (UK) 244 36

JANUARY 8

Gas and Oil Acreage 112

JANUARY 5

Siebens (UK) 246 4

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

UK MONEY MARKET

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 12½ per cent (since November 9, 1978)

The Treasury bill rate rose by 0.1890 per cent at yesterday's tender to 11.7855 per cent and the minimum accepted bid for 91-day bills fell to £97.06 from £97.07½ the previous week. Bids at that level were met as to about 41 per cent and all bills offered were allotted. Applicants for 92-day bills were received at £97.03 and above in full. The £300m bills on offer attracted bids of £753.335m against £845.43m a week before. Next week a further £300m will be on offer replacing a similar amount of maturities.

There was a full supply of credit in yesterday's money market, and the authorities did not intervene. The balance carried forward will no doubt be of value, since Monday promises to be rather a short day. The only factor of any note affecting the market was the surplus of funds brought forward by banks.

Discount houses were paying around 10¾ per cent for secured call loans and rates fell away towards the close to 4-5 per cent.

In the interbank market, weekend money opened at 10¾-11 per cent and eased on the forecast to 10¼-10½ per cent and touched 10-10¼ per cent soon after midday. Rates then fell away to 5-6 per cent, climbed briefly to 7-8 per cent and finally subsided to around 2 per cent.

Rates in the table below are nominal in some cases.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

Sterling made a sharp recovery towards the end of trading in yesterday's foreign exchange market after a fairly weak start, and finished the day only slightly below Thursday's closing levels. Continued concern over the possible effects of a prolonged disruption to the country's transport system tended to depress the pound, although trading was not particularly heavy. Sterling came on offer ahead of the opening of U.S. markets amid fears that the latter would continue to sell sterling. In fact New York turned out to be net sellers of dollars, and with the Bank of England intervening from time to time to smooth things over, the pound finished well above its worst level.

On Bank of England figures, sterling's trade weighted index fell to 63.3 from 63.4, having slipped to 63.1 during the morning and 63.2 at noon. Against the dollar it opened at $1.9890 and touched $1.9815 before recovering to $1.9900 by mid-afternoon. It then rose to $1.9985 and closed at $1.9955-1.9965, a loss of 50 points from Thursday.

The dollar showed a fairly firm tendency for most of the day, but suffered some pressure after the opening of U.S. markets and finished on or around its worst levels. In terms of the D-mark, it finished at DM 1.8545 against DM 1.8605, after reaching DM 1.8680 during the day. While finishing slightly firmer against the Swiss franc at SwFr 1.6830 from SwFr 1.6775, it was well down from the day's high of SwFr 1.7060.

Using Morgan Guaranty figures at noon in New York, the dollar's trade weighted average depreciation narrowed slightly from 8.8 per cent to 8.7 per cent. On Bank of England figures its index rose to 84.0 from 83.9 previously.

Gold lost $1¼ an ounce in fairly active trading to close at $217¼-218¼.

THE POUND SPOT

Jan. 12	Bank rate %	Day's Spread	Close
U.S. $	9½	1.9815-1.9985	1.9955-1.9965
Canadian$	11¼	2.3540-2.3735	2.3685-2.3705
Guilder	6½	3.99-4.01	3.99-4.00
Belgian F	6	58.20-58.55	58.35-58.45
Danish K.	8	10.24¼-10.30	10.28¼-10.29¼
D mark	3	3.68-3.71¼	3.70-3.71
Port. Esc.	18	93.00-94.00	93.55-93.95
Span. Pes.	8	139.10-140.10	140.00-140.10
Lira	10½	1,664-1,678	1,674-1,675
Nrwgn. K.	7	10.08-10.14	10.12¼-10.13¼
French Fr.	9½	8.47-8.52	8.48-8.49
SwedishKr	6½	8.64¼-8.72	8.70¼-8.71¼
Yen	3½	390-400	393¼-395¼
AustriaSch	4½	27.00-27.25	27.17-27.22
Swiss Fr.	1	3.32¼-3.38¼	3.35¼-3.36¼

Belgium rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 58.50-58.60.

OTHER MARKETS

Jan. 12	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso	2038-2048	1021-1026	Austria	26½-27½
Australia Dollar	1.7465-1.7515	0.8770-0.8785	Belgium	59-60
Brazil Cruzeiro	40.99-41.99	20.55-21.05	Denmark	10.21-10.31
Finland Markka	7.92-7.94	3.9800-3.9820	France	8.45-8.55
Greek Drachma	71.755-73.519	35.95-36.85	Germany	3.67-3.77
Hong Kong Dollar	9.46-9.48	4.7400-4.7460	Italy	1,660-1,710
Iran Rial	151.40-159.50	76.00-80.00	Japan	385-395
Kuwait Dinar (KD)	0.537-0.547	0.2741-0.2742	Netherlands	3.95-4.05
Luxembourg Frc.	58.35-58.45	29.24-29.27	Norway	10.05-10.15
Malaysia Dollar	4.4225-4.4350	2.2270-2.2285	Portugal	91-100
New Zealand Dlr.	1.8800-1.8860	0.9445-0.9465	Spain	143-147
Saudi Arab. Riyal	6.54-6.64	3.3225-3.3375	Switzerland	3.30-3.40
Singapore Dollar	4.3225-4.3350	2.1755-2.1765	United States	1.9950-2.0050
Sth. African Rand	1.7109-1.7370	0.8570-0.8700	Yugoslavia	39.5-42.5

Rates given for Argentina is free rate.

GOLD

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11
Gold Bullion (a fine ounce)		
Close	$217¼-218¼	$218¼-219¼
Opening	$218-218½	$221¼-222¼
Morning fixing	$216.60 (£109.058)	$221.20 (£110.600)
Afternoon fixing	$217.60 (£109.078)	$220.85 (£110.160)
Gold Coins, domestically		
Krugerrand	$230-232 (£115½-116½)	$233-235 (£116½-117½)
New Sovereigns	$62¼-65¼ (£31½-32½)	$64-66 (£32-33)
Old Sovereigns	$63¼-65¼ (£31½-32½)	$63-65 (£31½-32½)
Gold Coins, internationally		
Krugerrand	$224-226 (£112½-113½)	$227-229 (£113½-114½)
New Sovereigns	$57½-59½ (£28½-29½)	$58-60 (£29-30)
Old Sovereigns	$63½-65 (£31½-32½)	$63-65 (£31½-32½)
$20 Eagles	$291-296	$295-300
$10 Eagles	$160-165	$161-166
$5 Eagles	$109-114	$111-116

LONDON MONEY RATES

Jan. 12 1979	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount market deposit	Treasury Bills ⊕	Eligible Bank Bills ⊕	Fine Trade Bills ⊕
Overnight	—	2-11	—	—	—	11-11¼	4-10¾	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	11¼-11½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or	—	—	—	—	—	11¾	—	—	—	—
7 days notice	—	11-11⅛	11⅛-11¼	—	12	—	10¾-11	—	—	—
One month	12-11⅞	11½-11¾	11¾-11⅞	11⅞-12¼	12⅛	12⅛	11⅝	11⅝	11¾	12¼
Two months	12⅛-12¼	12⅛-12¼	—	11⅞-12¼	12¼	—	11⅞	11¾	12	12½
Three months	12⅜-12¼	12⅜-12½	12¼-12⅝	11¾-12⅛	12⅝	13	12	11⅝-11¾	12⅛	12⅝
Six months	12¾-12⅝	12⅜-12½	12⅛-12⅜	11⅝-12	12½-12⅝	—	—	—	12-12⅛	13
Nine months	12⅞-12⅝	12⅝-12⅞	—	11⅞-12⅛	12⅝	—	—	—	—	—
One year	12¼-12⅜	12¼-12⅜	12-12¼	11⅞-12¼	12⅝	—	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	—	12⅛-12⅞	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Local authority and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. *Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 12⅝-12½ per cent; four years 12¾-12⅞ per cent; five years 12⅞-13 per cent. ⊕ Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 12⅛ per cent; four-month trade bills 12⅝ per cent.

Approximately selling rates for one-month Treasury bills 11⅝-11⅞ per cent; two-month 11⅝-11¾ per cent; three months 11⅞-11¾ per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month bank bills 11⅞ per cent; two-month 11⅞ per cent; and three-month 12-12⅛ per cent; one-month trade bills 12⅛ per cent; two-month 12⅜ per cent; and also three-month 12½ per cent.

Finance House Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 12½ per cent from January 1, 1979. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for small sums at seven days' notice 10 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 12½ per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 11.7855 per cent.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

January 12	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty changes %
Sterling	63.25	−40.8
U.S. dollar	84.05	−8.7
Canadian dollar	79.06	−18.3
Austrian schilling	146.79	+19.4
Belgian franc	114.69	+15.3
Danish kroner	113.92	+7.5
Deutsche Mark	150.20	+41.9
Swiss franc	193.06	+81.1
Guilder	125.03	+21.1
French franc	99.65	−5.6
Lira	54.07	−49.4
Yen	146.09	+44.3

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971 (Bank of England Index=100).

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

Jan. 12	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Asian $	Japanese Yen
†Short term	11-11¼	9⅞-10⅛	8-9	7¼-7½	par-⅛	2⅞-3	6⅝-7⅛	8-10	—	-1⅛-1⅛
7 day's notice	11⅜-11⅝	10-10¼	8-9	8¼-8½	par-⅛	2⅞-3	6⅞-7⅛	10-11	10⅛-10¼	-1⅛-1⅛
Month	11⅞-12	11¼-11½	10⅜-10⅝	8⅝-8⅞	par-⅛	3⅛-3⅜	7¾-8	10¾-11¼	11⅛-11⅜	1⅛-1½
Three months	12⅛-12⅜	11⅛-11⅜	10⅝-11	8⅜-8⅝	par-⅛	3⅜-3⅝	8¼-8½	12-13	11¼-11½	1⅜-1⅞
Six months	12⅜-12½	11⅛-11⅜	10⅞-11⅛	8¼-8½	¼-⅜	3⅝-3¾	9-9¼	13½-14½	11¾-12	2¼-3⅛
One year	12¼-12⅝	11⅝-11⅞	10⅞-11⅛	8-8¼	⅛-⅜	3⅞-4⅛	9¾-10	14-15	11¾-11⅞	2⅜-3⅛

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one month 10.35-10.45 per cent; three months 10.85-10.95 per cent; six months 11.45-11.55 per cent; one year 11.40-11.50 per cent.

Long-term Eurodollar deposits: two years 10⅞-11 per cent; three years 10⅝-10½ per cent; four years 10⅜-10½ per cent; five years 10⅜-10⅞ per cent; nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars; two-day call for guilders and Swiss francs. Asian rates are closing rates in Singapore.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCKS 12/1/79

Statistics provided by data STREAM International

Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Conversion dates	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.§	Income Diff.▽	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◇ Current
Associated Paper 9½pc Cv. 85-90	1.40	98.00	200.0	76-80	9.7	9.8	−6.7	−8 to 9	14.3	8.7	−5.3	+1.4
Bank of Ireland 10pc Cv. 91-96	1.20	190.00	47.6	77-80	5.3	1.9	−6.3	−9 to −3	17.9	13.8	−2.0	+4.3
British Land 12pc Cv. 2002	7.71	175.00	333.3	80-97	7.0	6.1	12.9	1 to 26	0.0	92.4	59.6	+46.7
English Property 6½pc Cv. 98-03	8.07	87.00	234.0	76-80	7.6	7.8	−4.7	−11 to −1	11.3	6.1	−5.7	−1.0
English Property 12pc Cv. 00-05	15.31	87.00	150.0	76-84	14.2	14.2	48.7	40 to 66	26.3	45.6	32.9	−15.8
Hanson Trust 6½pc Cv. 88-93	4.51	77.50	57.1	76-80	8.6	9.6	−1.7	−2 to 8	6.0	6.2	0.2	+1.9
Hewden-Stuart 7pc Cv. 1995	0.01	380.00	564.5	75-80	1.9		5.2	−10 to 8	15.5	9.9	−1.6	−6.7
Slough Estates 10pc Cv. 87-90	5.50	174.00	125.0	78-87	5.8	0.9	7.9	8 to 15	37.3	51.3	8.7	+0.8
Thorn Electrical 5pc Cv. 90-94	4.19	103.00	29.1	75-80	4.8	4.6	−2.7	−5 to 1	10.1	6.7	−3.3	−0.5
Tozer, Kemsley 8pc Cv. 1981	0.78	90.00	153.9	74-79	9.0	13.1	17.0	7 to 21	5.1	3.9	−1.6	−18.5
Ultramar 7pc Net R.Cv.Pfd.	14.97	1.25	0.5	76-88	8.3	6.8	10.5	8 to 15	0.0	57.0	50.4	+39.9
Wilkinson Match 10pc Cv. 83-98	11.10	87.50	40.0	76-83	11.5	11.7	25.4	20 to 30	28.4	34.4	8.7	−17.7

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 10 per cent per annum and is present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ▽ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent of the value of the underlying equity. ◇ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness. − is an indication of relative dearness.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Jan. 12	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japan'se Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild'r	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	1.996	3.705	394.8	8.485	3.360	3.995	1675.	2.370	58.40
U.S. Dollar	0.501	1.	1.856	197.8	4.251	1.683	2.002	838.9	1.187	29.26
Deutsche mark	0.270	0.539	1.	106.5	2.290	0.907	1.078	452.0	0.640	15.76
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.533	5.056	9.386	1000.	21.49	8.512	10.12	4242.	6.004	147.9
French Franc 10	1.179	2.352	4.367	465.2	10.	3.960	4.708	1973.	2.793	68.83
Swiss Franc	0.298	0.594	1.103	117.5	2.525	1.	1.189	498.4	0.705	17.38
Dutch Guilder	0.250	0.500	0.927	98.81	2.124	0.841	1.	419.1	0.593	14.62
Italian Lira 1,000	0.597	1.192	2.213	235.7	5.067	2.007	2.386	1000.	1.415	34.88
Canadian Dollar	0.422	0.842	1.563	166.6	3.580	1.418	1.686	706.5	1.	24.64
Belgian Franc 100	1.712	3.418	6.344	675.9	14.53	5.753	6.841	2867.	4.058	100.

Markets stable on continued reluctance of sellers

Share index down 2.8 but net 3.8 up on account at 474.7

Account Dealing Dates

Option

*First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Jan. 2	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 23
Jan. 15	Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Feb. 6
Jan. 29	Feb. 8	Feb. 9	Feb. 20

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

General concern about the widespread disruption facing industry with the road haulage strike being made official was emphasised yesterday by Courtaulds outlining the rapid deterioration of its business and Dunlop's announcement of closure from last night of its UK tyre plants.

Lingering hopes that the national rail strike might be averted appeared to be dashed after the breakdown of talks yesterday, but stock markets continued to behave with remarkable stoicism.

Gilt-edged were tending easier late but actually showed widespread small gains despite the pressure on sterling and the inflationary implications of last month's rise of about 0.8 per cent in the retail price index—its sharpest gain for 17 months. The equity leaders opened lower, but turnover was small again and prices generally held steady at the slightly lower levels before closing above the worst. This was reflected in an opening loss of 3.3 in the FT 30-share index which was only 1.2 down at 1 pm and was finally 2.8 off at 474.7; at this level, the index was showing a loss on the week of 4.8 and a net rise on the two-week trading account of 3.8.

The key to the markets resilience was the continued reluctance of sellers and the weight of institutional funds awaiting investment. Buying activity remained centred on second-line stocks which were less prominently firm than recently but still showed some good gains.

Rises and falls in FT-quoted industrials were fairly evenly matched, and the broad-based FT-Actuaries three main indices again ended with only marginal losses. Yesterday's markings of 4,413 brought the week's daily average to 4,383—the highest since the week ended November 3 last, while figures for total equity turnover for Thursday showed that day's business—at £137.3m—to be the biggest since last August.

In face of the continuing gloomy labour outlook and a fresh setback in sterling, British Funds put on a relatively good performance yesterday. The announcement of a new short tap stock, £750m more of the existing Treasury 12 per cent 1983, however, prompted a slightly easier trend in shorts in the late dealings, particularly in the vicinity of the new stock; final quotations registered losses ranging to ¼. The latter maturities encountered occasional support in the early dealings but, after the initial flurry which took prices up by around ¼, little interest was shown later and the trend here was also to lower levels in unofficial trading.

Firm conditions prevailed in the investment currency market as a good institutional demand for Wall Street ahead of Monday's Budget helped the premium advance steadily to close 4 up at 89½ per cent. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.6966 (0.7035).

A slight improvement in the volume of business in Traded Options saw 361 contracts completed compared with the previous day's 137.

UDT up on bid hopes

A bout of speculative buying fuelled by hopes of an imminent bid, possibly from Lloyds and Scottish, helped **UDT** feature the banking sector with a jump of 6 to a year's high of 51p; the 16 per cent Convertible Loan '79-81 gained 8 points to £148 in sympathy; the Board's denial came too late to affect sentiment. **FNFC**, which reported a strong profits recovery on Thursday, softened ½ to 6½p. Among quietly dull Discounts, **Gerrard and National** featured with a fall of 8 to 191p following a Press report that its subsidiary Gerrard International faces legal proceedings over the alleged non-payment of bills of exchange.

Vague talk of a statement from **Willis Faber** early next week led to marking up in Insurance Brokers which ended with gains to 7; W.F. advanced that much to 240p.

Among quietly traded Breweries, recently firm **Davenports** rose 3 to 82p. Speculative demand in a thin market was good for a rise of 4 to 28p in **Luis Gordon**.

Slightly easier at the outset, Building descriptions rallied to overnight levels by the close and, in inter-office dealings, displayed several notable gains. **Tarmac**, a good market of late, added another 5 to 165p and recently dull **Ibstock Johnsen** picked up 4 to 166p. Ahead of next Wednesday's interim results, **Magnet and Southerns** firmed 5 to 143p.

After a reasonable two-way business, ICI closed 3 off at 359p, a fall of 6 on the week. News that Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust had increased its stake to 21.4 per cent left **Bernard Wardle** a penny up at 36p.

Stimulated by the disclosure that A. S. Stanley had increased its holding in the company to 16 per cent, **Morris and Blakey Wallpapers** made swift progress on hopes that this will soon lead to an outright bid; the **Ordinary** closed 8 to the good at 148p, after 150p, and the **A** 9 higher at 122p, after 124p. **A. G. Stanley**, a firm market of late, rose 4 more to 192p. Still drawing strength from recent Press comment, **Home Charm** added 10 to 260p for a rise on the week of 28. **Lee Cooper** put on 10 to 182p in a thin market, while **Lincroft Kilgour** gained 2½ to 51p ahead of next Thursday's preliminary results. **K. O. Boardman International** softened a shade to 20½p following the interim profits setback.

Firm at 372p in front of the interim results, which were in line with most expectations, **Thorn Electrical** reacted on the accompanying bearish statement to close 4 up on balance at 368p. Elsewhere, in the leaders, **GEC** drifted to 320p before picking up to close only a penny cheaper on balance at 325p. Still reflecting satisfaction with the annual results, **Eurotherm** moved up 10 more to 218p.

Leading Engineers barely stirred from overnight levels and, apart from **John Brown**, a few pence lower at 364p, prices closed without alteration. Elsewhere, **Baker Perkins** continued to attract buyers on bid hopes and advanced 6 further to 152p, while fresh demand left **Startrite** up 3 more at 147p for a rise of 26 on the week. **Swan Hunter** closed 2 firmer at 159p ahead of dealings in **Gosforth Industrial Holdings** on Monday following the reconstruction; Gosforth are expected to open at around 30p. 138p.

Leading Foods usually held steady, but certain supermarkets were unsettled by the consequences of the road haulage dispute. **Associated Dairies** drifted 4 easier to 192p, while small selling left **Amos Hinton** and **Nurdin and Peacock** with similar falls at 83p and 85p respectively.

Rank Org. firm

Miscellaneous Industrial leaders generally drifted lower in sympathy with the deteriorating labour situation. **Glaxo** lost 6 to 501p, **Beecham** 5 to 633p and **Unilever** 4 to 536p. **Rank Organisation** resisted the dull trend, rising 6 to 280p, on renewed demand ahead of the preliminary results which are due in the next Account. **BOC** were also resilient, hardening a penny to 67p on news that its U.S. subsidiary, Airco, is to sell its U.S./Swedish ferro-alloy operation for over US$100m. Elsewhere, a fresh bout of speculative buying on continuing bid hopes helped **Ofrex** advance 5 more to 124p, while **Associated Sprayers** added the same amount to 58p in response to Press comment. Speculative support was also forthcoming for **Kelsey Industries**, 125p, and **Vinten**, 159p, which rose 5 and 7 respectively, while take-over hopes continued to inspire **Johnson Cleaners** which hardened 3 more to 118½p. **ICL** remained on offer at 430p, down 3, making a fall of 20 since Plessey's disposal on Thursday of its 24.4 per cent shareholding to various institutions. **Plessey** finished 4 off at 111p, after 110p.

Samuelson Film Service eased 4 to 134p, but still held a gain on the week of 16, while **Pleasurama** firmed 2 to 95p on fresh consideration of the annual results and property revaluation.

News that **Dunlop** has been forced to close tyre manufacturing plants due to raw material shortages clipped 2 from the shares which finished at a 1978-79 low of 62p.

Irish concern **Independent** rose 5 to 215p after the good preliminary figures and proposed one-for-two scrip issue. Among Publishers, **Associated Book** responded to renewed takeover gossip to close 25 better at 268p in a thin market.

Property leaders occasionally gave ground, but a little new-time interest lifted **English** a penny to 40p. Fresh buying at the lower levels prompted a gain of 4 to 226p in recently dull **Great Portland Estates** and news of the £12m cash sale of the Park West complex left **Peachey** 2½ to the good at 94½p. Selected secondary issues attracted further demand with **Marlborough** and **Westminster and Country** a penny better at 27p and 31p respectively, while **Chaddesley** put on 3 to 59p for a gain of 10 since the impressive interim results and the chairman's confident statement.

A little more activity developed in Oils than of late, but **British Petroleum**, 910p, and **Shell**, 562p, both fluctuated within fairly narrow limits and closed without much alteration on balance. **Royal Dutch** continued to reflect dollar premium influences and moved up a point further to £45½.

Fresh buying interest was shown in the Shipping sector. **Common Brothers**, 205p, and **Manchester Liners**, 225p, improved 5 apiece, while **Ocean** firmed 2½ to 113½p. **James Fisher** advanced 9 further to 200p in a restricted market but, against the trend, **P and O Deferred**, eased 1½ to 87p.

Following the company's warning over its current difficulties, **Courtaulds** slipped 2 to 117p. Elsewhere, **Sidlaw** reported interim figures much in line with market expectations and the shares firmed slightly to 86p. Continued firmness was seen in **Scottish English and European** which put on 2 to 75p.

The undertone in Plantations was quietly firm, and some London support was present, leading to marginal gains in places. **Guthrie** closed 2 off at 433p, for a rise on the week of 88p on the bid talks with Sime Darby. A small level of demand in a thin market lifted **Titaghur Jute** 3 to 20p.

Late rise in RTZ

A feature of mining markets was the late strength in **Rio Tinto Zinc**; the continuing buoyancy of base-metal prices—notably copper—on the London Metal Exchange, coupled with news that the company is prepared to dilute its holding in Conzinc Riotinto to 49 per cent to enable the latter to attain the objective of majority Australian shareholding, saw a surge of buying which lifted Rio Tinto-Zinc 9 to 250p. **Conzinc Rio Tinto** also attracted a good demand with the shares ending 8 up at 300p.

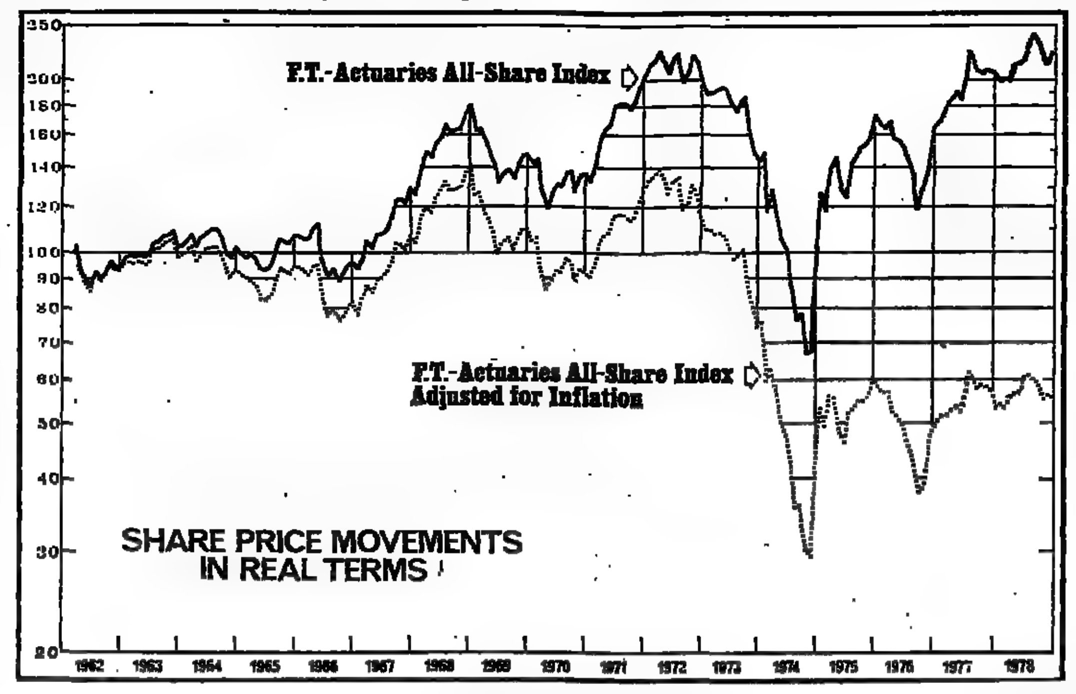
Australians also put on a good performance. A further rise in overnight domestic markets and the sharp gains in metal prices saw widespread advances in base-metal producers.

Improvements of around 5 were common to **Bougainville**, at a 1978-79 high of 150p, **BH South**, 118p and **MIM Holdings**, at a 1978-79 high of 228p.

Diamond exploration issues made similar progress. **Samantha Exploration**, which made their debut on Thursday, rose 3 to 45p compared with an issue price of 40 cents (around 23p).

Trading in South African Golds remained subdued with prices continuing to drift in line with the bullion price, which closed $1.25 easier at $217.875 per ounce in front of next Wednesday's U.S. Treasury gold auction of 1.5m ounces.

Elsewhere, **Yukon Consolidated** added 10 to a 1978-79 high of 200p—a week's gain of 30—following renewed strength in shares of Teck Corporation; the latter is currently making a takeover bid for Yukon.



FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11	Jan. 10	Jan. 9	Jan. 8	Jan. 5	A year ago
Government Secs.	68.09	68.00	68.17	68.49	68.52	68.42	77.55
Fixed Interest	70.33	70.31	70.42	70.40	70.35	70.29	80.80
Industrial	474.7	477.5	478.6	482.2	484.4	479.5	480.9
Gold Mines	136.7	137.2	136.2	139.8	140.4	139.5	139.1
Gold Mines (Ex-$ pm)	95.2	96.5	96.0	98.1	97.5	97.9	111.7
Ord. Div. Yield	6.08	6.06	6.04	6.00	5.96	6.02	5.60
Earnings, Y'ld % (full)	15.96	15.90	15.86	15.75	15.66	15.80	17.05
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	8.14	8.17	8.19	8.25	8.30	8.22	8.32
Dealings marked	4,413	4,151	4,380	5,376	3,596	4,144	5,034
Equity turnover £m.	—	137.30	64.27	68.02	51.08	53.16	80.43
Equity bargains total	—	12,831	11,842	13,345	10,841	10,502	14,636

10 am 474.2. 11 am 474.4. Noon 475.1. 1 pm 476.3. 2 pm 476.1. 3 pm 475.0.

Latest Index 01-246 8026.

*Nil = 7.90.

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/9/55. Ex $ premium index started June, 1972. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1978/9 High	1978/9 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
Govt Secs.	78.58 (3/1/78)	67.92 (10/11/78)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	81.27 (9/1/78)	69.30 (13/11/78)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	535.5 (14/9/78)	433.4 (2/3/78)	549.2 (14/9/77)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	206.6 (14/8/78)	124.1 (29/11/78)	442.3 (22/5/75)	43.5 (26/10/71)
Gold Mines (Ex-$ pm)	132.3 (14/8/78)	90.3 (18/4/78)	337.1 (3/4/74)	54.3 (25/8/76)

S.E. ACTIVITY

	Jan. 12	Jan. 11
—Daily		
Gilt Edged	143.0	125.5
Industrials	153.0	143.7
Speculative	30.0	35.0
Totals	100.4	94.5
5-d'y Av'r'ge		
Gilt Edged	145.0	142.8
Industrials	149.4	147.6
Speculative	29.7	38.1
Totals	99.8	98.5

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1978/9

The following securities quoted by the Share Information Service yesterday attained new Highs and Lows for 1978-79.

NEW HIGHS (40)

BRITISH FUNDS (1)
Treas. Variable 1982

BANKS (1)
U.D.T.

STORES (4)
Dewhirst, Ladies Pride, Home Charm, Stanley (A. G.)

ELECTRICALS (2)
Eurotherm Int., Unitech

ENGINEERING (2)
Baker Perkins, British Aluminium

INDUSTRIALS (10)
Black (P.), Magnolia, S.H. Prop., Ofrex, Huntleigh, Toothill (R. W.), Johnson Cleaners, Uniflex, Kelsey, United Guarantee

LEISURE (1)
Pleasurama

MOTORS (1)
Nelson David

NEWSPAPERS (2)
Assoc. Book Pub., Independent

PAPER (1)
Ferry Pickering

PROPERTY (3)
Chaddesley, Westminster Country, Marlborough

SHIPPING (2)
Common Bros., Fisher (J.)

SHOES (1)
Hiltons

TEXTILES (3)
Highams, Small & Tidmas, S.E.E.T.

TRUSTS (1)
Kellock

OVERSEAS TRADERS (1)
Australian Agric.

RUBBERS (1)
Moar River

MINES (3)
Bougainville, Yukon Cons., M.I.M. Hldgs.

NEW LOWS (14)

BRITISH FUNDS (4)
Treas. 9½pc 1981, Treas. 12pc 1983, Treas. 14pc 1982, Treas. 9½pc 1983

BANKS (1)
Hill Samuel Wts.

BUILDINGS (2)
Aberdeen Constrctn., Monk (A.)

CHEMICALS (1)
Fisons

STORES (2)
Mothercare, Paradise (B.)

ELECTRICALS (1)
Decca A

INDUSTRIALS (1)
Glaxo

MOTORS (1)
Dunlop

TEXTILES (1)
Spencer (G.)

OPTIONS

DEALING DATES

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Jan. 9	Jan. 22	Apr. 5	Apr. 18
Jan. 23	Feb. 5	Apr. 19	May 1
Feb. 6	Feb. 19	May 3	May 15

For rate indications see end of Share Information Service

Stocks to attract money for the call included Burmah, Lonrho, U.D.T., MFI, J. Bibby, Britannia Arrow, Maddocks, Town and City, F.N.F.C., ICI, Marley, Charterhall, Bernard Matthews and Guthrie. Puts were recorded in Plessey and Trust Houses Forte, while double options to be completed included Lonrho, MFI, Redfearn National Glass, Beecham and Thorn.

RISES AND FALLS

	Yesterday Up	Yesterday Down	Yesterday Same	On the week Up	On the week Down	On the week Same
British Funds	52	16	11	125	158	110
Corpns. Dom. & Foreign Bonds	4	8	53	31	40	254
Industrials	282	297	984	1,483	1,308	4,875
Financial and Property	83	105	325	573	402	1,590
Oils	12	5	21	41	38	111
Plantations	7	7	19	84	24	82
Mines	47	37	57	208	177	320
Recent Issues	4	—	28	18	10	128
Totals	491	475	1,485	2,534	2,155	7,470

ACTIVE STOCKS

YESTERDAY—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1978-79 high	1978-79 low
BP	£1	11	910	+2	954	720
ICI	£1	10	359	−3	421	328
U.D.T.	25p	10	51	+6	51	32
BATs Defd.	25p	9	250	−1	304	227
Distillers	50p	9	204	—	215	163
Shell Transport	25p	9	562	—	602	484
Cons. Gold Fields	25p	8	173	−2	204	163
GEC	25p	8	325	−1	349	233
Grand Met.	50p	7	114	−1	121	87
Guthrie Corp.	£1	7	433	−2	443	211
HK & Shanghai	SHK2.50	7	284	+7	360	203
NatWest Bank	£1	7	295	—	298	250
Wearra	10p	7	33	—	34	24
Beecham	25p	6	633	−5	726	581
Eng. China Clays	25p	6	86	—	88	72

The above list of active stocks is based on the number of bargains recorded yesterday in the Official List and under Rule 163(1) (e) and reproduced today in Stock Exchange dealings.

ON THE WEEK—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on week	1978-79 high	1978-79 low
Barclays Bank	£1	64	385	+7	388	296
Guthrie Corp.	£1	56	433	+88	443	211
BP	£1	55	910	−2	954	720
Shell Transport	25p	50	562	−10	602	484
ICI	£1	49	359	−6	421	328
GEC	25p	42	325	−1	349	233
Midland Bank	£1	42	375	+7	390	330
BATs Defd.	25p	41	250	−2	304	227
Beecham	25p	36	633	−12	726	581
Burmah Oil	£1	36	91	+1	93	42
Rank Org.	25p	36	280	+16	296	226
Plessey	50p	35	111	−1	125	87
Thorn Elect.	25p	34	368	−8	400	308
Averys	25p	32	235	−3	242	142
RTZ	25p	32	250	+22	263	164

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	12½%	■ Hambros Bank	12½%
Allied Irish Banks Ltd.	12½%	■ Hill Samuel	§12½%
Amro Bank	12½%	C. Hoare & Co.	†12½%
American Express Bk.	12½%	Julian S. Hodge	13½%
A P Bank Ltd.	12½%	Hongkong & Shanghai	12½%
Henry Ansbacher	12½%	Industrial Bk. of Scot.	12½%
Associates Cap. Corp.	12½%	Keyser Ullmann	12½%
Banco de Bilbao	12½%	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	14½%
Bank of Credit & Cmce.	12½%	Lloyds Bank	12½%
Bank of Cyprus	12½%	London Mercantile	12½%
Bank of N.S.W.	12½%	Edward Manson & Co.	13½%
Banque Belge Ltd.	12½%	Midland Bank	12½%
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A.	13 %	■ Samuel Montagu	12½%
Barclays Bank	12½%	■ Morgan Grenfell	12½%
Barnett Christie Ltd.	13½%	National Westminster	12½%
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	13½%	Norwich General Trust	12½%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	12½%	P. S. Refson & Co.	12½%
■ Brown Shipley	12½%	Rossminster	12½%
Canada Perm't Trust	12½%	Royal Bk. Canada Tst.	12½%
Cayzer Ltd.	12½%	Schlesinger Limited	12½%
Cedar Holdings	12½%	E. S. Schwab	13½%
■ Charterhouse Japhet	12½%	Security Trust Co. Ltd.	13½%
Choulartons	12½%	Shenley Trust	14 %
C. E. Coates	12½%	Standard Chartered	12½%
Consolidated Credits	12½%	Trade Dev. Bank	12½%
Co-operative Bank	*12½%	Trustee Savings Bank	12½%
Corinthian Securities	12½%	Twentieth Century Bk.	13½%
Credit Lyonnais	12½%	United Bank of Kuwait	12½%
Duncan Lawrie	12½%	Whiteaway Laidlaw	13 %
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	12½%	Williams & Glyn's	12½%
Eagil Trust	12½%	Yorkshire Bank	12½%
English Transcont.	12½%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14 %		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	14 %		
■ Antony Gibbs	12½%		
Greyhound Guaranty	12½%		
Grindlays Bank	12½%		
■ Guinness Mahon	12½%		

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee
* 7-day deposits 10%. 1-month deposits 10¼%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 10%, up to £25,000 10½% and over £25,000 10¾%.
‡ Call deposits over £1,000 10%.
§ Demand deposits 10%.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Ex'rc'se price	January Closing offer	January Vol.	April Closing offer	April Vol.	July Closing offer	July Vol.	Equity close
Com Union	140	8	—	12	1	18	—	147p
Cons Gold	160	19	5	27	—	31	1	178p
Cons Gold	180	2	6	11	20	17	2	"
Courtaulds	120	2½	6	8	—	10	—	117p
GEC	300	24	10	36	—	48	—	325p
GEC	360	¼	—	7	20	17	—	"
Grand Met.	110	5	62	9½	—	12½	—	114p
Grand Met.	120	1	10	4½	30	8	—	"
ICI	330	31	8	40	10	—	—	360p
ICI	360	6½	58	16½	33	30	—	"
ICI	390	¼	—	6½	55	16	—	"
Land Secs	220	33	—	40	5	44	—	253p
Marks & Sp.	80	5½	6	10	—	12	—	84p
Marks & Sp.	90	⅛	5	4½	—	7½	—	"
Totals			172		154		3	
		February		**May**		**August**		
Boc Intl.	70	⅛	2	3	—	4	—	66p
EMI	140	6	5	12	7	15	—	139p
RTZ	240	14	—	20	4	28	—	245p
RTZ	260	2	10	10	—	15	—	"
RTZ	280	⅛	—	5	4	—	—	"
Totals			17		15		—	

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue Price p:	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1978/79 High	1978/79 Low	Stock	Closing Price p:	+ or −	Div. P. or Amount	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P.E. Ratio
A$0.50	F.P.	—	78	61	Ashton Mining 50c.	79	+1	—	—	—	—
A$125	F.P.	—	106	97	††Aust. Farming A$1.	97	...	—	—	—	—
155	F.P.	10/1	178	170	HarrisQueensw'y 20p	178	+5	†7.8	5.1	6.5	7.4
29	F.P.	5/1	31	29	Kitchen Queen 10p.	29½	+½	†1.34	5.4	6.8	4.9
**	F.P.	9/2	34	31	M. Y. Dart Defd.	31	..	—	—	—	—
110	F.P.	17/1	135	115	Mill'ttsL's'reShps20p	129		‡5.7	1.8	6.6	12.4

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue Price	Am'unt Paid up	Latest Renunc. Date	1978/79 High	1978/79 Low	Stock	Closing Price £	+ or −
**	F.P.	16/2	109p	108p	Assoc. Dairies 9¾% Pref.	109p	...
*	F.P.	26/1	100	89¾	Colne Valley Water 8% Red Prf. 1983.	101	...
£100p	F.P.	28/12	100½p	99p	Findlay 8% Cnv. Cum. Red. Prf	99p	...
£100p	F.P.	5/1	119	102	Hawley-Goodall 12% Cnv. Uns. Ln. '86-88	119	...
£1	F.P.	22/12	99p	97½p	Newman Inds. 10¼% Acc. Pref.	97p	...
£10	1/5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mid Kent Water 8% Pref. 1984	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Nil	13/1	[illegible]	[illegible]	Rivington Reed 9½% Cnv.Cum.Red.Pref.	[illegible]	[illegible]
97½p	F.P.	5/1	99p	97½p	Seascope 10½% Pref.	[illegible]	[illegible]

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue Price p:	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1978/9 High	1978/9 Low	Stock	Closing Price p:	+ or −
60	Nil	19/1	12pm	7pm	Associated Biscuit	9pm	[illegible]
17	Nil	15/12	20½	19	Boulton (Wm.)	20½	[illegible]
305	F.P.	[illegible]	122	107	Clifford (Chas.)	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	F.P.	8/12	[illegible]	[illegible]	Findlay (Andrew)	[illegible]	[illegible]
130	F.P.	8/1	[illegible]	[illegible]	Foster John	[illegible]	[illegible]
210	F.P.	15/12	242	[illegible]	Hoskins & Horton	[illegible]	[illegible]
250	F.P.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Lep Group	[illegible]	[illegible]
55	F.P.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Metal Box	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	Nil	22/1	[illegible]	[illegible]	Suter Electrical Defd.	6pm	[illegible]
62	Nil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tern Consulate	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	F.P.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	York Fine Woollen	[illegible]	[illegible]

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. [illegible]

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

	EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS (Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section)	Fri., Jan. 12, 1979 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 33%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Thurs. Jan. 11 Index No.	Wed. Jan. 10 Index No.	Tues. Jan. 9 Index No.	Mon. Jan. 8 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	Highs and Lows Index 1978-79 High	1978-79 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (172)	234.11	−0.2	17.23	5.58	7.94	234.64	235.72	237.07	236.81	203.99	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	Building Materials (27)	208.01	+0.1	18.16	6.19	7.58	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	Contracting, Construction (28)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Electricals (15)	544.61	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	Engineering Contractors (14)	363.49	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	Mechanical Engineering (72)	183.27	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	Metals and Metal Forming (16)	162.21	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (53)	218.38	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	Lt. Electronics, Radio, TV (16)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
13	Household Goods (12)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	Motors and Distributors (25)	120.98	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (170)	209.04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
22	Breweries (14)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
23	Wines and Spirits (6)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
24	Entertainment, Catering (17)	271.13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
25	Food Manufacturing (19)	199.56	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
26	Food Retailing (15)	229.91	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
32	Newspapers, Publishing (12)	386.02	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
33	Packaging and Paper (15)	134.33	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
34	Stores (40)	193.92	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35	Textiles (23)	179.81	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
36	Tobaccos (3)	234.74	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
37	Toys and Games (6)	90.76	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
41	OTHER GROUPS (99)	197.59	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
42	Chemicals (19)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
43	Pharmaceutical Products (7)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
44	Office Equipment (6)	142.45	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	Shipping (10)	424.07	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
46	Miscellaneous (57)	213.40	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
49	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (494)	219.37	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
51	Oils (6)	506.75	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
59	500 SHARE INDEX	243.27	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
61	FINANCIAL GROUP (115)	172.09	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
62	Banks (6)	208.00	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
63	Discount Houses (10)	213.11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
64	Hire Purchase (5)	170.08	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	136.07	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
66	Insurance (Composite) (7)	122.78	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
67	Insurance Brokers (10)	317.48	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
68	Merchant Banks (14)	80.32	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
69	Property (43)	274.97	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
70	Miscellaneous (10)	110.41	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
71	Investment Trusts (111)	207.30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
81	Mining Finance (4)	107.18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
91	Overseas Traders (20)	116.99	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
99	ALL-SHARE INDEX (750)	224.22	−0.2	—	5.66	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES

	British Government	Fri. Jan. 12	Day's change %	xd adj. today	xd adj. 1979 to date
1	Under 5 years	102.09	−0.05	—	0.00
2	5-15 years	110.34	+0.29	—	0.00
3	Over 15 years	114.86	+0.28	—	0.00
4	Irredeemables	122.70	+0.35	—	0.00
5	All stocks	108.92	+0.16	—	0.03

FIXED INTEREST YIELDS

	Br. Govt. Av. Gross Red.		Fri. Jan. 12	Thurs. Jan. 11	Year ago (approx.)	1978/79 Highs	1978/79 Lows
1	Low Coupons	5 years	9.75	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2		15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Medium Coupons	5 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5		15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	High Coupons	5 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8		15 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
9		25 years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	Irredeemables		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

		Fri., Jan. 12 Index No.	Yield %	Thur. Jan. 11	Wed. Jan. 10	Tues. Jan. 9	Mon. Jan. 8	Fri. Jan. 5	Thur. Jan. 4	Wed. Jan. 3	Year ago (approx.)	1978/79 Highs	1978/79 Lows	Since Compilation Highs	Since Compilation Lows
15	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	54.75	[illegible]	54.75	54.78	54.80	54.80	54.79	54.77	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
16	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value	Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value
Pharmaceutical Products	30/12/77	261.77	Miscellaneous Financial	31/12/70	128.06
Other Groups	31/12/74	63.75	Food Manufacturing	29/12/67	114.13
Overseas Traders	31/12/74	100.00	Food Retailing	29/12/67	114.13
Engineering Contractors	31/12/71	153.84	Insurance Brokers	29/12/67	96.67
Mechanical Engineering	31/12/71	153.84	Mining Finance	29/12/67	100.00
Wines and Spirits	16/1/70	144.76	All Other	10/4/62	100.00
Toys and Games	16/1/70	135.72			
Office Equipment	16/1/70	128.20			
Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20			

† Redemption yield. A list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4, price 13p, by post 22p. A fortnightly record of group and subsection indices, dividend yields and earnings figures since 1962, with quarterly highs and lows of the indices, is obtainable from FT Business Enterprises, 10, Bolt Court, London, EC4, at £80 per copy.

NAME CHANGE: Wolstenholme Bronze Powders has changed its name to Wolstenholme Rink (Chemicals).

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Emson & Dudley Tst. Mngmnt. Ltd.
20, Arlington St., S.W.1. 01-499 7551

Emson Dudley Tst.	68.5	73.4	.....	7.80

Equity & Law Un. Tr. M.♥ (a)(b)(c)
Amersham Rd., High Wycombe. 0494 33377

Equity & Law	67.6	71.1	-0.1	4.34

James Finlay Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
10-14, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 041-204 1321

J. Finlay Internat'l	23.5	25.3	.....	2.09
Accum. Units	27.9	30.0	.....	2.09
J. Finlay Income	36.4	39.1	.....	8.37
J. Finlay Euro.Fin.	27.0	29.0	.....	3.37
Accum. Units	32.0	34.4	.....	3.36
J. Finlay Fd.In.Tst.	28.0	30.1	.....	4.26
Accum. Units	32.6	35.1	.....	4.26

Prices on Jan. 10. Next dealing Jan. 17.

Courtwood House, Silver Street, Head, Sheffield, S1 3RD. Tel: 0742 79842

Commodity & Gen.	67.5	73.0	-0.1	5.31
Do. Accum.	79.8	87.2	-0.1	5.31
Growth	36.9	39.7xd	+0.2	3.36
Do. Accum.	40.0	43.0	+0.2	3.36
Capital	26.3	28.3xd	+0.1	3.94
Do. Accum.	29.0	31.2	+0.1	3.94
Income	52.6	56.6	-0.2	6.96
Do. Accum.	61.4	66.1	-0.1	6.96
International	44.6	48.0xd	+0.3	2.50
Do. Accum.	47.9	51.5	+0.4	2.50
High Yield	65.2	68.0	-0.1	8.58
Do. Accum.	68.9	74.2	-0.2	8.58
Equity Exempt*	107.4	113.3	.....	5.56
Do. Accum.*	107.4	113.3	.....	5.56
Japan & Pacific	49.4	52.6	+0.2	0.86
Do. Accum.	49.4	52.6	+0.2	0.86

*Prices at Jan. 5. Next dealing Jan. 12.

CORAL INDEX: Close 472-477

INSURANCE BASE RATES

†Property Growth	12%
†Vanbrugh Guaranteed	11%

†Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond Table.

INSURANCE AND PROPERTY BONDS

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

J.E.T. Managers (Jersey) Ltd.
P.O. Box 98, Channel House, Jersey. 0534 73673

Jersey Extrnl. Tst.	167.0	177.0	.....	—

As at Dec. 29. Next sub. day Jan. 31.

Jardine Fleming & Co. Ltd.
46th Floor, Connaught Centre, Hong Kong

Jardine Estn. Tst.	HK$291.89	.....	2.60
Jardine J'pn.Fd.*	HK$414.73	.....	0.80
Jardine S.E.A.	$US16.66	.....	2.10
Jardine Flem.Int.	HK$11.92	.....	—
Intl.Pac.Secs.(Inc.)	HK$13.36	.....	—
Do. (Accum.)	HK$13.54	.....	—

NAV Dec. 29. *Equivalent $US86.44. Next sub. day January 15.

Eng. Int. Jan. 11	$US18.41		+0.07	—
Gr.St.SFd. Dec. 29	$US7.68		.....	—
Merc. Ebd. Jan. 3	US$10.32	10.44	.....	0.2956
Merc.My.Mkt.Jan.8	£10.26	10.27	.....	—

Warburg Invest. Mngt. Jrsy. Ltd.
1, Charing Cross, St. Helier, Jsy.C1 0534 73741

CMF Ltd. Dec. 28	$US14.25	14.61	.....	—
CMT Ltd. Dec. 28	£14.25	14.62	.....	—
Metals Tst. Dec. 21	£13.17	13.49	.....	0.67
TMT Dec. 14	$US10.39	10.66	.....	—
T.M.T. Ltd. Dec. 14	£10.28	10.55	.....	—

World Wide Growth Management♦
10a, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg

Worldwide Gth Fd	$US15.74	-0.02	—

NOTES

Prices do not include $ premium, except where indicated ♦, and are in pence unless otherwise indicated. Yields % (shown in last column) allow for all buying expenses. a Offered prices include all expenses. b Today's prices. c Yield based on offer price. d Estimated. g Today's opening price. h Distribution free of UK taxes. p Periodic premium insurance plans. s Single premium insurance. x Offered price includes all expenses except agent's commission. y Offered price includes all expenses if bought through managers. z Previous day's price. ♥ Net of tax on realised capital gains unless indicated by ♦. ¶ Guernsey gross. ‡ Suspended. ♦ Yield before Jersey tax. † Ex-subdivision. ‡‡ Only available to charitable bodies.

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Financial

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

1978-79 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or —	Div. % Gross	Red. Yield
24	17	Antofagasta Rly...	22	-1	—	—
41	33	Do. 5pc Pref....	40	......	—	—
98	98	Chilean Mixed.....	98	......	—	f3.10
22	6	Chinese 4½pc 1898	19	-1	—	—
35	4½	Do. 5pc 1912	35	......	—	—
20½	4½	Do. 5pc 1925 Boxer	18	-1	—	—
15	350	German Yng. 4½pc..	415	......	4½	—

BONDS & RAILS—Cont.

AMERICANS

S.E. List Premium 43½% (based on US$1.9905 per £)

CANADIANS

S.E. List Premium 43½% (based on $2.3650 per £)

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or —	Div. Net	Cvr	Gr's	P/E
199	157	Gerrard Natnl...	191	-8	g9.12	—	7.1	—
59	37	Gibbs (A.)......	47	......	2.23	—	7.1	—
255	195	Gillett Bros. £1.	220	-2	15.41	—	10.5	—
29	19	Goode D't Mry.5p	19½	......	0.13	—	1.0	—
142	96	Grindlays......	131	......	2.79	7.1	3.2	4.7
130	93	Guinness Peat..	117	-1	h5.15	—	6.6	—
217	155	Hambros......	190	......	†9.76	—	7.7	—
100	81	Hill Samuel......	85	+1	†4.97	—	8.7	—
600	100	Do. Warrants..	100	-25	—	—	—	—
360	203	Hong Shng.$2.50	284	+7	h059c	—	2.4	—
69	52	Jessel Toynbee.	62	-3	g3.65	—	8.8	—
215	150	Joseph (Leo) £1..	150	......	8.74	—	8.7	—

BANKS & HP—Continued

Hire Purchase, etc.

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MINES—Continued

AUSTRALIAN

1978-79 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or —	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
15	9	Acmex 25c	13	.....	—	—	—
150	64	Bougainville 50 Toea	150	+5	†Q8c	1.4	3.3
131	63	BH South 50c	118	+5	—	—	—
820	150	Central Pacific	450	+25	—	—	—
336	148	Conzinc Riotinto 50c	300	+8	‡Q10c	2.2	‡
32	19	Cultus Pacific N.L.	26	.....	—	—	—
27	9½	Endeavour 20c	21	+½	—	—	—
75	45	G.M. Kalgoorlie $1	62	.....	—	—	—

TINS

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

GOLDS EX-$ PREMIUM

London quotations for selected South African gold mining shares in U.S. currency excluding the investment dollar premium. These prices are available only to non-UK residents.

High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or —	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
$15¾	$10¼	Buffels R1	$10½xd	−¾	Q170c	1.8	18.7
$11¾	830c	East Drie R1	890cxd	−20	†Q78c	1.7	10.1
585c	330c	East Rand Prp. R1	350cxd	.....	—	—	—
$28⅝	$16½	F.S. Geduld 50c	$18¼	−½	Q315c	♦	19.9
$15¾	975c	Pres. Brand 50c	$11⅛	−⅛	Q150c	♦	15.6
$13½	900c	St. Helena R1	$10⅜	−⅛	Q190c	♦	21.1
470c	313c	Stilfontein 50c	410cxd	−5	†Q22c	2.3	6.2
$19¾	$16¼	Vaal Reefs 50c	$18¼	−¼	Q115c	3.3	7.3
$37	$25	West Drie R1	$28¾xd	−¾	Q385c	1.7	15.4
$31¼	$19	West Hldgs. 50c	$22¼	−¼	Q415c	♦	21.5
$12½	895c	Western Deep R2	$10⅝	−⅛	Q82.5c	2.4	9.0

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on the basis of net distribution; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent. or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 33 per cent. and allow for value of declared distributions and rights. Securities with denominations other than sterling are quoted inclusive of the investment dollar premium.

- A Sterling denominated securities which include investment dollar premium.
- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ♦ Figures or report awaited.
- †† Unlisted security.
- Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividends or forecasts.
- Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- Not comparable.
- Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Issue price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979-80. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1978-79. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1978. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1978. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1978-79. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date. ¶¶ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xc ex capital distribution.

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REGIONAL MARKETS

The following is a selection of London quotations of shares previously listed only in regional markets. Prices of Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are as quoted on the Irish exchange.

Stock	Price	+ or —	Stock	Price	+ or —
Albany Inv. 20p	26	.....	Sheffield Brick	52	.....
Ash Spinning	75	.....	Sheff. Refrshmt.	70	.....
Bertam	15	.....	Sindall (Wm.)	128	.....
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	325	.....			
Clover Croft	28	.....			
Craig & Rose £1	615	.....			

IRISH

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

FINANCIAL TIMES
Saturday January 13 1979

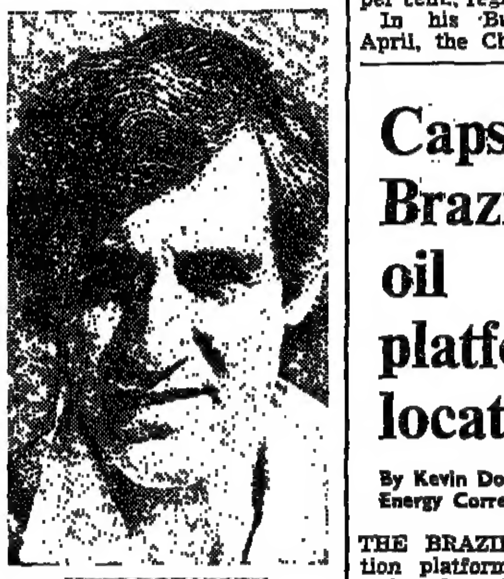
MAN OF THE WEEK

The one bright note

BY TREVOR BAILEY

AS CAPTAIN of England, Mike Brearley enjoyed this week the enormous satisfaction of seeing his team claw its way off the floor to win the Fourth Test and *capture the Ashes*. It was Britain's one bright note in a dreary New Year. The win means that he now joins a very select group, Percy Chapman and Sir Len Hutton, who since the 1914-18 War have regained the Ashes, and then gone on to retain them in Australia. It would be hard to improve on his Test record since he assumed command: *played* 17, won 11, drawn 5, lost 1.

Brearley is a very astute skipper with an excellent grasp of tactics, a quietly efficient, unspectacular leader, who has won the respect and the affection of



MIKE BREARLEY
Right time, right place

his players. In addition to England's great success under his captaincy, Middlesex have prospered with his leadership. However, as he would be the first to admit, he has had luck firmly on his side from the *outset*.

He took over England at exactly the right moment. His forces had already started improving and were developing into a compact fighting unit, whereas all the opponents he has so far encountered have, for various reasons, been on the decline. The 1977 touring party from Australia was generally agreed to have been the weakest in living memory, while the present Australian XI has even less class and experience.

Secondly, there was, and still is, an acute shortage of rivals for the job.

Finally, the selectors have been able to ignore his somewhat embarrassing lack of form with the bat, because you seldom sack cricket captains, or football managers, when they are winning matches.

It is rather ironic to think that, if Tony Greig had not defected to Kerry Packer, Brearley would almost certainly not have led England and would not now have been in the side, as his credentials as a batsman are modest at an international level.

He is a very competent county cricketer (better than his Test career suggests), and a solid acquirer of runs, with rather more determination than attacking strokes, an assessment which is borne out by a first class career average of about 37. It was especially pleasing that, after his lean spell, his long vigil in the second innings *should have played such a vital* part in the outcome of the Sydney Test.

I believe the most impressive feature of Mike's leadership has been shown in his performances abroad, both on and off the field. It was comparatively simple to lead England to victory over Pakistan and New Zealand last summer, but a good tour captain requires more than tactical skill and the ability to communicate. He needs to keep his players contented, including those who are out of the Test team, out of form, homesick, temperamental, injured, or just generally unsettled, as well as dealing with the insatiable demands of the media and an over-abundance of hospitality. He has coped quite splendidly with all these *problems, though they* have been made both easier, and more enjoyable for him by winning in Australia.

Despite his public school and Cambridge University educa*tion and first class honours* degree, Mike is definitely not an Establishment figure. He is very much a player's man, keenly interested in their financial, as well as their playing welfare. *Behind his* quiet, affable exterior and considerable charm lurks a hard, practical, almost ruthless individual with the brains to know exactly how far to go in any negotiations. He would have made an exceptional trades union negotiator, and he could well have an important role, if an agrement with W.S.C. is ever reached.

Inflation rate again shows slight rise

BY DAVID FREUD

THE UNDERLYING rate of inflation edged up in December *for the second* consecutive month—but ended last year broadly in line with Government predictions.

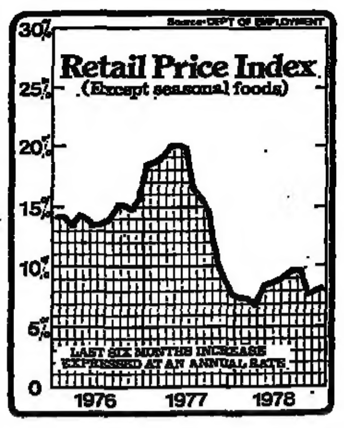
The next figures—up to mid-January—are likely to show an increase in the 12-month rate because of the cold weather, the lorry drivers' dispute and the annual seasonal bunching of price rises at the beginning of the year.

In spite of this, there is still no sign of any significant acceleration in the underlying rate. The 12-month rate of increase should therefore *remain* in single figures for some months.

The Department of Employment announced yesterday that the retail price index increased by 8.4 per cent in the year to mid-December to 204.2 (January 1974=100).

This is a slight increase on the rise of 8.1 per cent in the year to mid-November and a full percentage point above the lowest figure of last year—7.4 per cent., registered in June.

In his Budget speech in April, the Chancellor said the



rate would fall to near 7 per cent and remain there for the rest of the year.

In the month to mid-December the index rose 0.8 per cent. *About a third of the* increase was due to the rise in interest rates charged by building societies on mortgages.

Increases in motoring costs, fresh vegetables, carpets, glassware and the TV licence fee also contributed to the overall rise. Electricity bill reductions, due to the electricity discount scheme, parly offset these rises.

The best guide to the underlying rate of inflation is provided by the index for all items except seasonal food measured over six months expressed at an annual rate. This stood at 8.2 per cent in mid-December, compared *with 8 per cent in the previous* month.

Price increases that will be picked up in the next index include the increase in rail fares and rises in petrol prices caused by the shortages during the tanker drivers' dispute.

The impact of the remaining building societies putting up their mortgage interest rates *will* add about *0.3* per cent *to* the all-items index in January.

The effect of the cold weather on vegetable prices and increases in food prices as the *lorry drivers' dispute causes* shortages will tend to raise the index. However, price-cutting in the January sales is likely to offset some of the rise.

Future movements in the index will depend on the level of pay awards as well as the level of sterling and world commodity *prices*.

Capsized Brazilian oil platform located

By Kevin Done, Energy Correspondent

THE BRAZILIAN oil production platform, which capsized and sank on Thursday night in a Force 10 North Sea storm, has been found about 29 miles east of Hartlepool.

The 6,000-ton steel platform jacket was being towed from a construction yard in Scotland to an oil field off the coast of Brazil when it capsized and sank in 40-50 foot seas.

It is now partially grounded on the seabed in about 200 feet of water with a section of the superstructure above the surface.

The platform is insured for nearly £11m. About three-quarters of the risk is carried by Lloyd's underwriters in London and the remainder is *held in the U.S.*

The jacket, which is 575 feet high, was built by J. Ray McDermott, the U.S. company, at Ardersier, near Inverness. It was ordered in December, 1976, by Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil company, for the Namorado Field in the Campos Basin.

Disaster

The 6,300-mile tow, which was being carried out by Oceanic Contractors, a McDermott subsidiary, started on Tuesday. But the platform, mounted on a steel barge, had reached only the North Sea off Teesside, when disaster struck.

In a heavy gale, the line to one of the two tugs towing the platform broke and the second line began to fray. The tugs tried to guide the platform into the more sheltered waters near Flamborough Head, but the barge *capsized in the storm*.

The barge was later recovered, and was being towed north last night. The sea conditions were too bad yesterday *to make any assessment of damage* to the platform. It was not known whether it could be recovered.

The accident is a big blow to Petrobras, which is under pressure to develop Brazil's offshore oil reserves to reduce the country's oil import bill.

The tow should have taken about 45 days, and was already long overdue. The construction of the platform was held up by an eight-week strike at the beginning of last year, but it was finally due to be floated out in November. It was then held up by mechanical problems on one of the tugs and by the weather conditions.

Breakthrough

The platform order from Brazil was a big breakthrough for the UK offshore supplies industry, which has keen hopes of repeat export orders for offshore fields from Brazil, Venezuela and Mexico.

There have been several accidents involving drilling rigs off the coast of the UK, but this is only the second time that a production platform has capsized and sunk on the tow to a field.

The first accident involved a drilling and production platform which sank a couple of miles from its location in the Frigg Field in October, 1974. That platform has never been removed.

Pound under $2 after pressure

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING came under pressure in foreign exchange markets yesterday, closing in London at under $2.00 for the first time in more than three weeks.

The pound fell by nearly 2 cents at one stage yesterday in distinctly unsettled conditions following overnight weakness in New York. But the rate rallied to finish half a cent down on the day at $1.9960. The trade-weighted index ended 0.1 down at 63.3 after a low of 63.1.

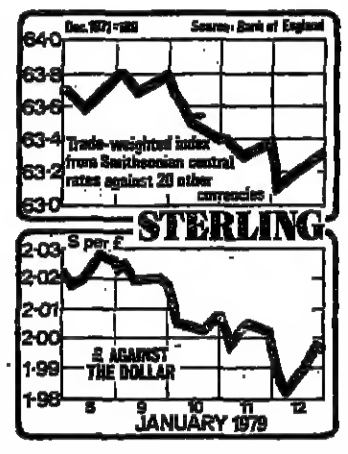
Dealers reported clear signs of Bank of England intervention to check the decline, though, as earlier in the week, *support seems to have been on* a fairly limited scale.

The pressure on sterling is hardly surprising in view of the seriousness of the industrial position; indeed it is arguable that in the circumstances the rate has held up better than might have been expected.

Nevertheless at yesterday morning's low point the trade-weighted *index had fallen by* 1.1 per cent since Monday evening and sterling had dropped by 2.2 per cent against the dollar. But so far the fall has only cancelled out the strength of the last month.

● The Government maintained its gilt-edged sales programme yesterday with the issue of a short-dated tap stock, a further £750m tranche of 12 per cent Treasury 1983. This follows the exhaustion of the medium-dated tap 12¼ per cent Exchequer 1985 on Tuesday.

The authorities' decision to issue a slightly shorter dated



tap partly reflects the hope that there will be some reinvestment demand for stock with this maturity date from holders of the 11½ per cent Treasury 1979 which is redeemed on March 9.

An unusual feature of the new stock is that it includes provision for exemption from UK *taxes for non-resident holders* and can be held in bearer form. This has not been allowed since March 1977 but an exception has been made since the new stock is a further tranche of an existing loan, and so the terms are unchanged.

The list of applications will open and close next Wednesday and the price is £97.25 per £100 nominal, payable in full. Apart from the £750m being offered to the public, a further £200m has been reserved for the National Debt Commissioners *for* public funds under their management.

President axes U.S. Harrier funds

By David Buchan in Washington

PRESIDENT CARTER has eliminated from the 1979-80 budget that he is to unveil in 10 days' time some $200m which the U.S. Marine Corps had sought for the continued development of a U.S.-built version of the British-designed Harrier Jump Jet. The move could cause serious friction between the U.S. and the U.K.

The cut, one of many across a broad range in and out of the defence field, is aimed at curbing next year's budget deficit and has the apparent endorsement of Mr. Harold Brown, the Defence Secre*tary*.

His Department spokesman would not comment yesterday, but British sources confirmed that the Harrier funds had been knocked out of the new budget.

The $200m originally proposed would have gone to finish off the two improved AV8B prototypes just being completed and to build four development models. Once that was done, a definitive decision on actual production could have taken place.

Congress may, however, restore the eliminated development funds later this year, as it restored $168m to Harrier research and development funds in the 1978-79 defence budget, after the Administration had proposed cuts.

Consequences

If Congress does not do this, there will be important operational consequences for the U.S. Marine Corps, which has been hoping to get 334 of the AV8B version of the Harrier to be built in the U.S. by McDonnell-Douglas, and economic effects for the British aircraft industry, which had *been due to get $1bn in work* out of a $5bn McDonnell-Douglas contract.

Rolls-Royce is due to sell the same Pegasus aero-engines for the AV8B version that it supplied for the earlier version of the Harrier, the AV8A, of which the U.S. Marine Corps bought 110 outright from Britain a few years ago.

In addition, much of the design and airframe work for the AV8B Harrier is to be carried out by British Aerospace *at its Kingston plant*.

Efforts will undoubtedly be made by Britain to get President Carter to change his mind before he announces his *budget on January 23*. *But* his proposal to put a temporary halt to an improved Harrier model, which will have double the range/payload of the existing version, has some support inside the Defence Department from those who argue that the Marine Corps is awarding too much of the close air support *role to itself, and not enough* to the Navy.

THE LEX COLUMN

Thorn prepares to switch off

With *most* of British industry threatening to grind to a halt next week. Thorn's share price was one of the few not to be affected by the gloom last night. The shares closed 4p better, at 368p, after Thorn announced a 17½ per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £54.3m. This was slightly better than expected but the company was far from encouraging *about* the second half outlook.

Its UK domestic appliance business was disrupted by industrial unrest in the run up to the all important Christmas buying season which in the company's words had a "disproportionately damaging effect" on the company's profits. Now, just as the com*pany is getting* back into its stride, it has been hit, in common with most other major UK companies, by the current hauliers' strike. If it continues, production at a number of Thorn's UK factories will be halted next week. Quite what this means for Thorn's profits is still unclear. At the moment City forecasts are being shaved back to £120m for the full year (against £110.3m last time). However, as the three day week showed in 1974, company profits have an uncanny way of recovering faster than analysts expect, and Thorn is one of the more conservative companies.

TV rental continues to motor ahead and without this Thorn's profit performance would be *pedestrian. As it is*, the £8.1m first half advance does not look too spectacular after adjusting for the absence of losses of £2½m or so in Australia and Europe during the same period last year. By comparison with smaller rental companies such as Electronic Rentals and Granada which have been enjoying boom conditions, *Thorn seems to be only* plodding along.

Such comparisons, however, hardly do the company justice. As a result of its conservative depreciation policy in 1972/73 there is probably proportionately less scope for rental profit growth than for the other two

Index fell 2.8 to 474.7

because it has already benefited from its heavy early depreciation policy. More important, *the* profits from its rental operations are diluted by the less profitable parts of both the UK and overseas business.

So far there are few signs that Thorn's non-TV rental operations can produce substantial profit growth in the 1980s. But this could change. The group has rationalised its TV production *facilities and should* be well placed to benefit from the upsurge in demand expected in the early 1980s—especially since well over half its output goes into its captive outlets. The shares are selling on 8½ times prospective earnings and yield around 5 per cent.

Tap stock

It might have seemed unnecessary, given that the official funding programme is supposedly not in difficulties and that the short end of *the* gilt market is hardly in danger of running out of control, for the authorities to bring out a tap stock. The new tranche of Treasury 12 per cent 1983 was received as an unwelcome *burden* and prices of short-dated stocks fell back to leave the new issue a quarter point above the market.

The Government Broker seems anxious to reabsorb the banking sector's proceeds from the 11½ per cent 1979 stock which matures in March; whether the banks will be keen to buy a four-year gilt rather than, say, a 1981 stock is another matter. The new tranche is not primarily a funding instrument, although it *might be interesting* for unadventurous institutional money.

It should certainly stop short gilt yields from falling in the near term, although that would anyway be an unlikely enough event as things stand. Some analysts were putting a brave face on things yesterday and concluding that a new tap at this level — and with a coupon lower than the recently exhausted 1985 tap — would not have been brought out if the authorities expected to have to raise interest rates.

The gilt market ended the week looking apprehensive and rather vulnerable; that it has not fallen more steeply may reflect the high level of institutional liquidity. Equities have traded in a 25-point range for 10 weeks and could perhaps be looking to gilts for a lead.

Dividend cover

Loud protests have been heard this week from M and G Group (Holdings), the public company which manages M and G unit trust. The group believed that under the new cover rule it was entitled to raise its dividend by more than two-fifths in respect of the year ended last September. But the Treasury clamped down and refused to let the payment go up by more than the standard ten per cent. The dispute centres around the calculation *of dividend cover, and it looks* as though many more companies could have similar problems.

The Treasury says that cover is profits after actual tax divided by the net dividend. But this is only right if a company operates only in the UK and pays a full 52 per cent tax charge. The F.T.'s definition of *cover is slightly more complicated:* profits after mainstream corporation tax divided by the *gross* dividend.

If a company pays little UK corporation tax it would incur extra advance corporation tax were it to pay a high dividend. This notional extra ACT is not allowed for by the Treasury. M and G's problem appears to be *partly that back in the previous* high cover year of 1972-73 it had a low tax charge, but tax has been much higher in 1977-78. So on the Treasury's figuring, cover has improved much less between these two years than on the more realistic basis.

Continued from Page 1

Pickets curb agreed

By raising the idea of a code, Mr. Callaghan almost took the words out of the mouth of Mr. James Prior, Conservative employment spokesman.

In a speech in which he generally endorsed his leader's proposals for union reform, Mr. Prior said the Conservative Party had always believed that the changes made by the Government to legalise secondary picketing would contribute to industrial unrest. The Conservatives would consider the whole question again.

The Government was yesterday receiving hourly reports from the regional emergency comittees set up around the country and the chairmen of the eight English committees will be in London for a meeting with Mr. Rodgers tomorrow.

Mr. Rodgers is expected to make a statement in the Commons on Monday and the Conservatives are to put down a motion of censure for debate on Tuesday.

The motion is likely to relate specifically to the Government's handling of the present dispute and will be aimed at attracting maximum support from minority parties.

The signs yesterday were that the Government would survive provided it manages to get all its supporters to the House in spite of Tuesday's threatened rail strike.

Mr. George Newman, director-general of the Road Haulage Association, reiterated that official union backing for the strike would have no impact in moving the employers from their 15 per cent offer.

In "an already fragmented and grossly over-priced industry" members could not afford it and there was the threat of the Government retaliating on road haulage charges.

However, he hinted that discussions on productivity might *be possible* and said it was unfortunate that the unions had refused to embark on such talks.

He warned that if the strike *were prolonged many hauliers* would face serious bardship and even bankruptcy in some cases.

Last night the Confederation of British Industry urged road hauliers not to raise their offer.

Weather

UK TODAY

SUNNY SPELLS and wintry showers. Fog in places.

London, Midlands, Cent. S. and NW England, Lakes
Fog early. Sunny spells. Max. 2-4C (36-39F).

Eastern England, S. Scotland
Sunny spells, snow showers. Max. 2-4C (36-39F).

Channel Is., West Country, Wales, I. of Man
Sunny spells, wintry showers. Max. 11C (41F).

Most of Scotland, Ulster
Fog, sunny spells and snow showers. Max. −1-2C (30-36F).

BUSINESS CENTRES

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Amsdm.	F	2	36	Mnchstr.	S	−3	27
Athens	C	15	59	Mex. C.		20	68
Barclna.	S	14	57	Melbne.	S	28	82
Beirut	C	17	63	Milan	S	1	34
Belfast	Fg	−4	25	Montreal.	C	−11	12
Belgrd.	C	2	36	Moscow	C	1	34
Berlin	Sn	0	32	Munich	F	0	32
Bmghm.	S	1	34	Newcstl.	S	3	37
Bristol	F	4	39	N. York	C	−6	21
Brussels	F	3	37	Oslo	C	−2	28
Budpst.	S	2	36	Paris	C	2	36
B. Aires	S	32	90	Perth	S	28	82
Cairo	S	20	68	Prague	C	−1	30
Chcgo.	Sn	−8	18	Reykjvk.	C	−6	21
Cologne	C	1	34	Rio J'o	S	31	88
Cphgn.	Sn	−1	30	Rome	C	9	48
Ednbgh.	S	−6	21	Singapr.	S	29	84
Frankft.	F	2	36	Stkhm.	Sn	−4	25
Geneva	C	0	32	Strasbg.	C	4	39
Glasgow	S	−3	27	Sydney	F	26	79
Helsinki	Sn	−4	25	Tehran	S	4	39
H. Kong	S	22	72	Tel Aviv	C	18	64
Jo'burg	C	25	77	Tokyo	C	8	46
Lisbon	C	14	57	Toronto	S	−10	14
London	S	4	39	Vienna	C	0	32
Luxmbg.	C	−1	30	Warsaw	C	0	32
Madrid	F	14	57	Zurich	C	0	32

HOLIDAY RESORTS

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Ajaccio	F	9	48	Istanbul	C	14	57
Biarritz	C	11	52	Jersey	F	7	45
Blackpl.	S	3	37	L. Plms.	C	18	64
Bordx.	R	6	43	Locarno	S	3	37
Boulgn.	F	3	37	Majorca	C	15	59
Casab'ca	C	15	59	Malaga	F	16	61
Cape T.	S	20	68	Malta	C	15	59
Corfu	C	13	55	Nairobi	S	22	72
Dbrvnk.	C	7	45	Naples	F	6	43
Faro	F	15	59	Nice	S	12	54
Florence	S	6	43	Nicosia	C	17	63
Funchal	C	16	61	Oporto	C	14	57
Gibrltr.	S	−3	27	Rhodes	F	16	61
G'rnsey	F	6	43	Salzbrg.	C	0	32
Insbrk.	Sn	−3	27	Tangier	C	16	61
Invrnss.	F	−2	28	Tenerife	R	12	54
I.o.Man	S	3	37	Valencia	F	20	68

C—Cloudy. F—Fair. Fg—Fog. R—Rain. S—Sunny. Sl—Sleet. Sn—Snow.

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